

Tuesday
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Britain's newspaper
for Europe



The Guardian

G2 with today's TV

G2, page 4

Sport, page 16

'We sank
so fast
the mast
may have
been
pushed
through
the boat'

Nick Hopkins

SURVIVORS of the storm that devastated the Sydney to Hobart race described yesterday how their yachts had been torn apart by the most ferocious conditions that any could remember.

The storm, having buffeted the front-runners with gusts of 60mph, unleashed its full fury on the trailing fleet which entered Bass Strait close to Flinders Island, where the winds had been battling strong tidal currents for hours.

Six boats were destroyed in the resulting swells and 61 others from the 115 starters abandoned the 630-mile race.

Two competitors were last night known to have died, and four others were missing feared drowned, including Glyn Charles, a member of the 1996 British Olympic team in Atlanta.

Last night the race organiser, Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, admitted it would have considered delaying the start if it had known the conditions were going to be that bad.

But the Australian deputy prime minister dismissed calls for the race to be scrapped. Tim Fischer said: "I guess some people will ask should there be a Sydney-Hobart race. Yes, there should be, but any loss of life from sporting and recreational events is particularly tragic."

Three of the missing were from the Winston Churchill, the oldest yacht in the race, which was swamped by a wave on Sunday afternoon. Its skipper, Richard Winning, was rescued with three others 24 hours later, winched into a helicopter from a leaking inflatable life raft.

Mr Winning said the 15-metre wave that struck the yacht was so powerful it pulled the holding stays away from the mast and smashed the windows on the bridge.

"The breaking crest came right on the leeward deck," he said. "The next thing we



Richard Winning, skipper of the yacht Winston Churchill, is led to an ambulance after being winched from a life raft.

were taking water faster than we could handle it. We couldn't work out why we were sinking so fast. It's possible the mast got pushed through the bottom of the boat."

The Winston Churchill, a 56ft cutter built from pine in 1943, sank in 20 minutes. Mr Winning had just enough time to send mayday calls, before scrambling to one of the two life rafts.

Nineteen-year-old Michael Ryan, who was taking part in his first race, said they

abandoned ship as the stern of the yacht disappeared beneath the waves.

Their ordeal was not over. The life raft turned over twice as the storm continued. "The damned thing capsized twice on these great seas at night, which is bloody frightening," Mr Winning said.

"You have got four of us underneath this little canopy and the next thing is you are upside down. So one poor bastard has to go out and ride it while the other three are inside."

Bruce Gould, who was also in the life raft, said they bailed water using a plastic bag and a sea boot, and had continually to pump air into one of the craft's tubes to stop it deflating.

The men had emergency rations of hard biscuits and water, but these would not have lasted another night. "Any rest we had was between bailing and I wouldn't call that sleep," Mr Gould said.

"We were fairly confident we'd stay afloat, but

we were getting a bit worried about whether anyone would find us."

Two crew were rescued from the second life raft, but three others had been tossed into the sea.

Race spokesman Peter Campbell said searchers had not given up hope. "All three were wearing life jackets and one had a personal strobe light."

However, the search for Mr Charles, of Emsworth, Turn to page 3, column 8

Nursing crisis looms

Agency staff fill vacant NHS jobs

David Mendonça
Westminster Correspondent

THE NHS is facing a fresh crisis today as it emerged that cash-strapped hospitals have had to double the money spent on expensive agency nurses to fill the gap left by a dramatic drop in students joining the profession.

New government figures show that £216 million a year is being spent on agency nurses to make up the shortage caused by the joint effect of record numbers of disillusioned staff leaving and a 15 per cent drop in students enrolling for training because of the Government's failure to fully finance pay awards for the last two years.

Government figures released to Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, show that during the last financial year spending on agency staff reached £216,338,567, compared with £116,088,250 in 1997.

Some 500,000 nurses are employed by the NHS at £5.6 billion a year — so the extra costs will be a relatively small sum but will still have a major effect on the individual hospitals involved.

Since May 1997, there has been a 15 per cent drop in students enrolling for the profession. Four out of five hospitals are said to face difficulties recruiting full time staff. The worst areas for recruitment are intensive care, geriatrics and theatre staff.

Last year 2,700 NHS staff nurses quit the profession — many of them taking new jobs as agency nurses where they receive higher pay. Others have joined private clinics and hospitals and nursing homes.

Unions blame the crisis on low pay and the staging of awards — which have meant a loss of £254 a year for newly qualified nurses. Although nurses were awarded 3.8 per cent last year, the effect of

staging the rise meant that the award was only worth 2.6 per cent.

Nurses still receive low starting salaries compared with teachers — there is an estimated 17 per cent shortfall between the starting salary of a registered nurse and most new teachers. A Grade D staff nurse starts on £12,855, although a nursing assistant on Grade A pay earns only £8,815.

Bob Abberley, Unison's health spokesman, said yesterday: "The NHS will only solve its staff problems if it pays all its health workers a decent wage."

The Royal College of Nursing has also warned that hospitals could face a fresh crisis this winter because of the shortage of full-time staff nurses.

There are already some 8,000 NHS nurse vacancies and 1,000 NHS midwifery vacancies.

This is at a time when the Government has promised an extra 6,000 training places for the profession and has plans to recruit another 15,000 nurses over the next three years.

The crisis also comes just as Alan Milburn, the health minister in charge of the NHS drive, has left the Department of Health, promoted to Chief Secretary to the Treasury in the fall-out following the resignation of Peter Mandelson, the trade secretary. His

replacement, John Denham, has yet to read himself into the job.

Mr Hughes said yesterday: "There are now so few NHS nurses that the private sector is cashing in by filling the vacancies."

"This is nonsense. Money must be spent recruiting badly needed NHS nurses, not paying for private ones."

The shortage of staff nurses is also having a big impact on patient care. According to a survey by the Daily Mail yesterday, a number of hospitals cannot open new beds and units because they cannot recruit the staff.

Examples include the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, said to be unable to open 36 beds because of a lack of qualified nurses, and the South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust, which cannot open a new 20 bed ward because of staff nursing problems.

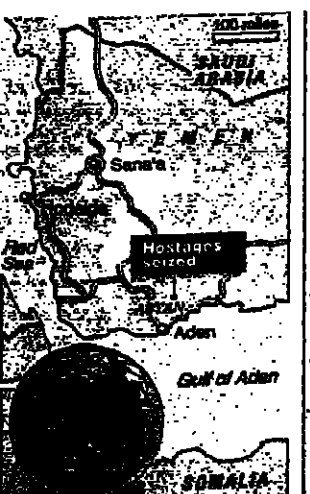
The Department of Health says that it is trying to tackle the problem by offering new training and recruitment programmes, but adds: "It will take time for the present initiatives to take effect."

One major study is looking at the possibility of changing nursing hours to allow more flexibility. At the moment they often have to work too many long shifts and unsocial hours. Inquiries show that some nurses switched to working for agencies so that they could choose their own hours.

This year the Government put some 5.7 per cent more cash into the NHS to improve patient care and pay more staff.

Agency versus trust, page 5

British tourists kidnapped in Yemen



James Wilson
and Brian Whitaker

TRIBESMEN in Yemen last night kidnapped 16 tourists, including 12 Britons, who were visiting the south of the country as part of a trip organised by a British tour operator.

It is understood the group, which also included two Americans and two Australians, were taken hostage in the early afternoon while driving between the towns of Habbon and Aden in the southern province of Abyan.

Initial reports said the party had been travelling in five 4x4 vehicles when the kidnappers struck by block-

ing the road in front of the convoy. One of the vehicles, containing a Yemeni guide and a British man, was allowed to drive away.

It is believed the occupants of the other four vehicles were driven to an area called al-Wade'a, 250 miles south of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said it had been in touch with the Yemeni authorities in London and Sana'a. "We have impressed on them the importance of seeking the hostages' safe and swift return," he said.

He declined to name the tour operator organising the trip until the company had notified the victims' relatives. Sources in Yemen said last

night that the Al Maraziq tribe was responsible for abducting the tourists, the largest single kidnapping in Yemen's history.

In June, the tribe held nine Italian tourists for three days before releasing them unhurt. They were demanding a car and the building of a school from the government, which they claimed had been promised to them during an earlier kidnapping but had never been delivered.

The latest kidnappings in Yemen come three weeks after tribesmen abducted four German tourists including three women, who are still being held in the Marib province east of Sana'a. The four were taken by the

Bani Dhabyan tribe near the Yalash pass as they returned to the capital. On December 8, Yemeni authorities said they had arrested nine members of the tribe and issued a warning to free the hostages within 34 hours or "face severe consequences".

Newspapers in Yemen said the abductors of the German tourists had demanded 90 million rials (\$400,000), luxury cars, houses, high military ranks and public sector posts for senior tribal members.

More than 100 foreigners have been abducted since 1992 but most have been released unhurt. The Yemeni government issued a decree in August imposing the death penalty for kidnapping.



Birth of the euro

The euro is only four days away — and comparisons between the United States of Europe and America are no longer fanciful. **Page 19**

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UK news
New measures to ensure that fewer child prostitutes are prosecuted by the police are to be announced today. **Page 4**

International
Russia's leading maverick nationalist politician, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, yesterday proposed state-sponsored sex. **Page 7**

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In G2 Europe today: Four women, famous and not so famous, look back at an eventful year

+ Taking risks with Branson and the yachtsmen + New Year's resolutions for your health + Education + Films of the year

'Disrepute' over ruling on Pinochet

Jamie Wilson

THE Lord Chancellor said yesterday that the legal system had been brought into disrepute by the overturning of the law lords' historic judgment against General Pinochet.

Lord Irvine of Lairg insisted that new procedures had to be adopted to ensure there was no repeat of the "unprecedented" setting aside of the law lords' original ruling that the former Chilean dictator, aged 83, was not immune from extradition and prosecution for crimes against humanity.

"It is in the highest degree unfortunate because it does have a tendency to bring the legal system into disrepute," Lord Irvine told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "This was litigation where the eyes of the world were and are upon us."

"But what is necessary to do is not cry over spilt milk but to see that procedures are put in place to ensure that this does not happen again."

Lord Irvine's comments follow the decision by five senior law lords that the case against Gen Pinochet should be heard after it emerged that Lord Hoffmann, a member of the original panel, had not declared his links with Amnesty International.

The Lord Chancellor said that when a panel of law lords was assembled to hear an appeal they should consider whether the presence of any of the judges could give rise to an appearance of a conflict of interest. "If there was, it would be the responsibility of the law lord in the chair to ensure that the law lord concerned did not sit," he said.

The law lords found that Lord Hoffmann should have stood down because Amnesty, a vociferous opponent of Gen Pinochet's military regime,

had been allowed to intervene in the original hearing. Through its QC, Geoffrey Bindman, the human rights group pressed the case for denying immunity for crimes against humanity.

Lord Hoffmann, one of the majority who ruled against the general, was a long-time director of Amnesty International Charity Limited, the human rights group's fund-raising arm. His wife, Gillian, has worked for Amnesty for more than 20 years.

Lord Irvine's comments met with a tepid response from a former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson.

"What happened is unfortunate but I don't see any need to alter the system," Lord Donaldson said. "All judges know that they have to let the parties in a case know of anything that gives the appearance of bias. Just because the system broke down on this one occasion does not mean the system is wrong."

But a retired law lord, Lord Scarman, agreed with Lord Irvine that the law lords should examine possible conflicts of interest before hearing a case.

Lord Scarman said: "If we are going to incorporate the Human Rights Convention you must be able to take care of embarrassing events that may arise." He added that in 99 per cent of cases there would not be any problem.

Lord Irvine would not be drawn on whether he thought Lord Hoffmann had acted improperly by not revealing his Amnesty links. He said he would wait until the second panel had delivered its full written judgment before he formed an opinion.

The fresh appeal in the Pinochet case is expected to be heard next month. Spain is seeking his extradition to stand trial on charges of murder and torture carried out under his regime.

Geoffrey Bindman, page 8



A handful of big charities are planning £100 million-plus appeals in an attempt to reverse the decline in charitable giving

"I know of five appeals with nine-figure targets. It's scary. I am telling other charities not to even think about going up against these, but to budget on getting past the millennium and to plan for serious fund-raising afterwards"

Tony Bellischer, fund-raising consultant

NSPCC leads millennium cash pleas

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

CHARITIES are planning a barrage of unprecedented appeals in 1999 to mark the millennium and to try to reverse an alarming decline in support for good causes.

A flood of promotion and fund-raising activities will include a handful of appeals with targets each in excess of £100 million.

Smaller charities are being warned not to attempt to compete with the big appeals, but to batten down the hatches.

Tony Ellischer, a leading fund-raising expert and director of Burnett Consulting UK, said: "I know of five appeals with nine-figure targets. It's scary. I am telling other charities not to even think about going up against these appeals, but to budget on getting past the millennium and to plan for serious fund-raising afterwards."

One millennium appeal already launched is the Children's Promise, a government-endorsed campaign to

persuade working people to give their last hour's pay in 1999 to a fund to be shared among children's charities. Tony Blair has said he will do so. The campaign, which aims to raise more than £100 million, was launched with a £1 million donation by Marks & Spencer and has so far won the backing of 1,300 employers.

Although the NSPCC will be one of the charities to benefit from the Children's Promise, it is also preparing to announce its own appeal. Rumours suggest it could be twice as ambitious.

The charity's plans have been a poorly kept secret, with large-scale recruitment of fund-raising staff in recent months for what the organisation has described as its biggest-ever campaign.

Mike Taylor, the NSPCC's director of children's services, said the campaign was set for a March launch. He confirmed that it would have a target in excess of £100 million. "We think this is breaking new ground in that, unlike other big appeals, it is not going to be about raising money for a building but about providing services for children," Mr Taylor said.

Some in the fund-raising sector think that the NSPCC has divulged just enough about its intentions to deter others from going ahead with millennium appeals.

Stephen Lee, former director of the Institute of Fund-raising Managers, said: "Clearly there will be a number of these appeals, of which the most talked-up has been the NSPCC's — maybe deliberately so. I am sure there will be an awful lot of millennium razzamatazz and PR from

voluntary organisations, simply because they feel they have to do something, but how much actual fund-raising is going to be done I simply don't know."

One charity planning a high profile 1999 is the British Red Cross, which will be launching its Power of Humanity programme in May. It hopes to benefit through being a provider of first aid at many millennium events, although it says its aim is not primarily to raise funds.

Another organisation rumoured to be planning a big millennium campaign is the disability charity Leonard Cheshire.

There is also likely to be at least one millennium appeal by medical charities, seeking funds for a historic breakthrough in the fight against cancer and other diseases.

Fund-raisers hope that the millennium spirit will reverse the decline in charitable giving that started in 1994, with only 30 per cent of households now making regular donations. Mr Lee, a research fellow in voluntary sector management at South Bank University in London, cautioned that results might not be so positive.

Controversy over the Dome had engendered a mood of cynicism about the millennium and there was a "tired" feeling about big appeals, many of which had been launched since 1995 to complement National Lottery funding.

"You should only ever contemplate doing one of these major appeals if you are absolutely certain that your case is strong enough," Mr Lee warned.

US aircraft kill four Iraqi soldiers

New Gulf tension after first clash since Desert Fox in 'no-fly' zone

Ian Black in London and Chris Morris in Ankara

TENSION mounted again in the Gulf last night after American aircraft fired at an Iraqi missile battery and killed four soldiers in the first armed clash since Operation Desert Fox ended last week.

Iraq blamed the United States for the incident, near Mosul in the northern "no-fly zone", which followed a week-end of angry exchanges in which Baghdad accused Washington and London of violating its sovereignty and threatened to shoot down their planes.

But President Bill Clinton defended the action and insisted that the US would continue to police the no-fly zones in both northern and southern Iraq as part of his new policy of "containment".

Saddam Hussein said the US pilots have the authority to protect themselves. They attacked be-

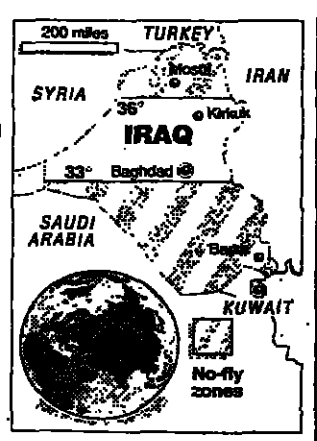
cause they were attacked, and they did the appropriate thing," he said.

The US planes fired two missiles and precision-guided bombs at an Iraqi missile battery near the city of Mosul.

The US says Iraqi surface-to-air missiles were fired at their planes first from various sites; Iraq says it was the other way round.

"Our aircraft were conducting routine enforcement operations when they were attacked," said a spokesman, Adam Stump, at the allied air base at Incirlik in Turkey. "There was no damage to our planes and all the crews returned safely to Turkey."

Britain is the only other country now taking part in the air patrols but British Jaguar fighter-bombers based at Incirlik were not involved in yesterday's incident, the ministry of defence said in London. Before the attack Baghdad had reported several clashes with allied aircraft but these were dismissed by



sites in the area", killing four soldiers and wounding seven. But in Washington Col Richard Bridges called the incident, which lasted half an hour, "an act of aggression" by Iraq and described the US response as "an act of self-defence".

The US and Britain are both adopting a tough, business-as-usual attitude towards Iraq though they face huge problems in handling the diplomatic disarray following their four days of airstrikes. Neither has an answer to the question about who or what will replace the inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission, UNSCOM, at the heart of the recent crisis.

Having claimed victory by surviving Desert Fox, President Saddam now appears to be trying to goad the US and Britain into new clashes in the air exclusion zones and hoping that they will feel constrained by their own isolation.

Iraq calls both zones illegal though Britain and the US insist they were set up under full United Nations authority to protect rebellious Iraqi Kurds and Shiite Muslims.

Sarah's hot Cinders will drive everyone Wildor

Review

Judith Mackrell

Cinderella

Royal Festival Hall, London

CINDERELLA always runs the risk of becoming the dullest of goody two shoes, and Frederick Ashton chose to make her as pretty faultless as she could be. Yet he also choreographed elements of pathos and mischief which ballerinas could mine for dramatic richness, and Sarah Wildor, making her London debut in the role, seizes every opportunity to make her Cinderella irresistible.

Small and blonde, with the high curved forehead of a Renaissance angel, Wildor looks like a classic Cinderella, while her dancing winds itself gorgeously around Ashton's choreography and Prokofiev's score. She is fleet and witty in the kitchen scenes and, in the ballroom, her tiny rounded limbs stretch to a grandeur way beyond her scale. But for all her textbook qualities she makes her Cinders unique.

Wildor has an extraordinary stage smile, huge and infectious, and she radiates her way through the trickiest steps as if they were the best fun in the world. Her acting is gripping, so that even in this most skilful of dramatic roles when she weeps in memory of her dead mother we are star-

led by her pain and loss, when she dreams of rescue it is with a lonely intensity, when she giggles at the ridiculousness of her ugly sisters she makes us laugh out loud. And when she finally makes it to the ball, we are willing the magic not to break for her.

The role confirms that she is set to be one of the next great artists at the Royal. But Cinderella is an ensemble ballet and Wildor's achievement is sparked by several other performances around her. Gillian Revie invests the Fairy Godmother with a twist of dry sophistication; Mara Galeazzi as the Autumn Fairy builds impressively on the confidence and style she has been amassing all season; and Alastair Marriott and Peter Abegg-

len are a wacky double act as the sisters.

These two men are not just guys in frocks, but invest the roles with an identifiably female vanity and insecurity. Abegglen in particular gets right under the skin of the younger sister: she is pathetic not in the old maidish way the role is usually played, but in the eagerness of her hopelessly misplaced reactions. Her dish face and prissy lips are a blank slate across which bubbles of excitement, bemusement and despair pass in cartoon-quick succession.

The two of them are bound by a tragicomic contempt and loathing — seeing in each other the certain knowledge that they are the most unattractive couple at the ball.

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DELL

Veterans say the Sydney-Hobart race is tougher than the Fastnet — and the notorious Bass strait is where the dangers are greatest

Acceptable risks of a yacht classic



Bob Fisher, left, the Guardian's Sailing Correspondent, recalls terrifying moments facing a wall of water during an earlier Sydney-Hobart encounter and, below, describes the lifestyle of a professional sailor

THE RACE in the Sydney-Hobart is the aim of almost every sailor in Australia, and of many others from all over the world. It is one of the great classics.

For the competitors the knotted stomachs start at wake-up time and the walk to the marina is a nervous one. Those who sail this race know it is almost certainly tougher than the Fastnet race, and this year will have been no exception with a "southerly buster", the gale-force wind from the south, forecast. Less than four hours into the race, Roger "Clouds" Badham, a meteorologist of international reputation among yachtsmen, said: "If I were half the boats in the fleet, I'd be turning round and going home."

The appeal of the race is such that bad weather is considered an acceptable risk, and I suppose when I raced with Peter Blake aboard the 78ft Condor in 1979 — just after the Fastnet disaster of that year — we were slightly more circumspect than we might otherwise have been. As it happened, that year was a quiet "bus ride" down the coast in moderate to light winds most of the way.

Those races are few and far between. The Bass strait, which separates Tasmania from the mainland of Australia, is no friend of yachtsmen.

It has its particular mean streak and is where weather depressions deepen and har-

ness the force of the winds so that they meet the racing fleet and the two to three knots of south-going current head-on. That combination causes big seas and some of the waves can be gigantic.

It was certainly so in 1990, when I raced with Lawrie Smith aboard Rothmans, the 80ft sloop in which he had competed in the Whitbread round the world race. There had been a strong south-westerly in the strait for three days, but we brought with us a nor-easterly gale and were

Depressions deepen and winds meet the fleet head on

enjoying a sleighride to Hobart with clenched cheeks, as the race record appeared within our grasp.

The seas of the Bass strait put a halt to that and almost took the lives of all 24 on board. The wind change came early on the second morning and by mid-afternoon freshened to around 30 knots. We were charging towards the strait and the seas were no longer the rollers for which Rothmans had been designed, but much shorter and considerably steeper.

Sooner or later it had to go wrong. On one wave, the 30-ton yacht, which was playing like a speedboat, slid down

the back and stuck the bow into the one in front. It was as though she had decided to become a submarine.

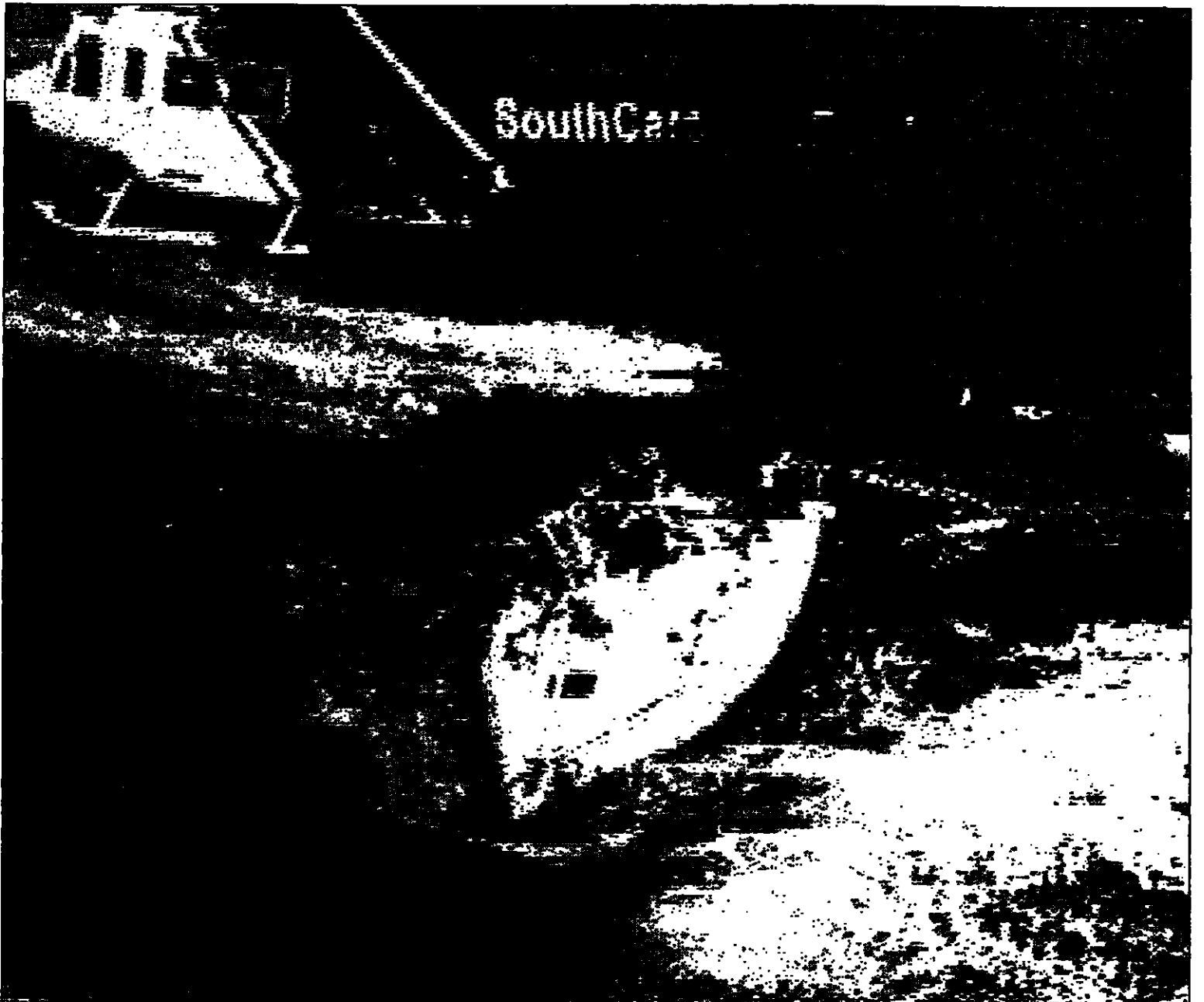
She came almost to a dead stop and a wall of water came over the foredeck and lifted the stern clear of the sea. Rothmans was in danger of broaching — cartwheeling out and filling with water. The main hatch (some 20 square feet in area) was open and the sea was cascading down below.

All of us on deck were in safety harnesses, tethered to strong points of the yacht, but we looked aghast as 10 tons of water hurtled towards us. The wind was rising, screaming almost at 50 knots, and we still had a spinnaker up.

The huge nylon sail had to come down and as it did, it swept the deck as it broke loose and had to be cut away. By then one of the crew had broken his arm, when two of the crew fell on him.

The next day, when we rounded Tasman island and began the final leg to the finish, the hardships were forgotten. When we reached the Iron Pot lighthouse, which marks the entrance to the river Derwent, a spectator fleet had begun to gather. It swelled to more than 100 boats before we crossed the line.

Hobart is famous for its post-race parties, which begin on the dockside the moment each boat finishes this 630-mile race. It is said they are one of the reasons for the race's popularity — but this year they will be muted.



A rescue helicopter hovers over a dismasted yacht with a crew member in the water off New South Wales in this Australian television still

Hazards and rewards of a life on the ocean wave

GLYN Charles was one of Britain's most respected sailors, who had only decided to compete in the Sydney to Hobart race at the last moment after a request from one of the skip-

pers, writes Bob Fisher.

The 35-year-old British Olympic sailor was at the helm of the Australian yacht Sword of Orion when the boat was split in two by mountainous waves. Rescuers admitted defeat in their search for him early yesterday, 24 hours after he was washed away.

Yesterday Charles's mother Margaret paid tribute to her son. "I always used to say if something happened to Glyn while he was sailing he was doing the thing he loved most," she said.

"Glyn has been dedicated to sailing since a small boy and it was wonderful that he achieved his great ambition by competing in the 1996 Olympics."

"We shall miss him terribly and his great enthusiasm about everything."

Charles, of Emsworth, Hampshire, had postponed his planned return to Britain to spend Christmas at his mother's home, so he could compete in the race.

The other 10 crew of the 43ft yacht were winched to safety by helicopter crews.

Charles's lifestyle was typical of the professional sailor — a life not necessarily rich in monetary rewards but free from the nine-to-five treadmill.

The fees sailors charge for their services depends on previous



Glyn Charles: boat split

regattas and are usually used to fund their own sailing.

This was undoubtedly the case for Charles, who aimed to win a medal at the next Olympics in Sydney, in the Star class.

To achieve his sporting ambition he had to sail other people's boats for relatively low fees. Charles raced in a variety of boats, from Melges 24s to 45-footers, and was to navigate the British Mumm 36 in the Admiral's Cup in the summer.

Journeymen sailors talk of earning US dollars, which probably dates back to the time when only American skippers paid for their expertise. A single-race regatta can bring in about \$1,000 (\$500) for the day. Sailors who are exceptionally good can earn twice that.

There are a handful of professional sailors whose status is such that they can demand almost any fee they name. They include Dennis Conner

and Russell Coutts, both America's Cup winners. Paul Cayard, who won the Whitbread Round the World Race; Chris Dickson, the New Zealand skipper of Sayonara in this year's Sydney-Hobart; and Britain's Lawrie Smith.

Dickson is the richest sportsman in his country, said to be worth \$10 million. Lower down the scale, a member of one of the match racing teams taking part in the Grade One events can earn about \$25,000 for eight to ten weeks regular work.

The good tacticians, the sailors who decide which way the boat should go, using their experience to anticipate wind and offset the currents, are among the better paid, alongside the hired-gun skippers.

But a week-long regatta might only bring in between \$500 and \$750 a day. These fees, along with air fares and accommodation, might sound generous, but most professional sailors only race 50 days a year.

Many of the less exalted sailors, known as boat-bums, will be engaged to deliver the boats from one regatta to the next. For this, \$100 a day is the usual wage.

Professional sailors have to be businessmen, and must work hard to maintain and add to their contact book of employers. Repeated hirings are fought for, and the ability to massage boat owners' egos is part of the trade.

The lucky few have their services retained, with supplementary fees each time they turn out.



'The mast may have gone through the boat'

continued from page 1

Hampshire, was abandoned yesterday, 24 hours after he was swept from the 44ft Sword of Orion.

His mother, Margaret, a widow, said he had postponed a visit to see her at Christmas after being offered a chance to compete in the race.

"Glyn has been dedicated to sailing since a small boy and it was wonderful that he achieved his great ambition by competing in the 1996 Olympics," she said in a statement.

The might of the storm surprised all of the competitors.

Kevin Lacey, who crewed the Innkeeper, said it was "a fight to stay alive".

"You get what we call square waves. You come off the top and there's nothing underneath. It's like going over a speed hump doing 90 miles an hour."

Geoff Boettcher, another skipper, said: "It was the worst conditions I have seen in 35 years."

The storm sparked one of Australia's biggest maritime rescue efforts, with more than 30 aircraft sweeping the disaster area. They were joined by a frigate, HMAS Newcastle, and 10 deepwater fishing boats.

The leading boat in this year's race, the 80ft Sayonara, was expected to finish early this morning local time. The boat, which is skippered by New Zealander Chris Dickson, has Rupert Murdoch's son Lachlan on board.

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4 BRITAIN

After Mandelson, Labour backbencher seeks sweeping changes

Call to give MPs power to police ministers' conduct

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

ELIZABETH Filkin, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, should be given sweeping powers to investigate breaches of conduct under the ministerial code in the wake of the Mandelson affair, a senior Labour backbencher MP said last night.

Dale Campbell Savours, Labour MP for Workington and a member of the Commons standards and privileges committee, called for the transfer to Parliament of existing powers held by Tony Blair and Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, to police the rules.

"All policing by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Secretary should be scrapped. The whole business over

Peter Mandelson's £373,000 loan from Geoffrey Robinson (the former Paymaster General) has been an embarrassment to the Prime Minister. He and the Cabinet Secretary should not be expected to have to ask personal questions about the private lives of fellow ministers.

"It should be done independently by Parliament."

The idea — which also has the backing of some senior ministers who believe the system must be changed — would bring Britain into line with the US, where the executive is not allowed to carry out investigations into its own members.

The call also comes at a time when Lord Neill, the independent chairman of the committee on standards and public life, is to review the workings of the system.

Under the present rules the

Parliamentary Commissioner polices the register of members' interests, and whether MPs have broken Parliament's rules by not declaring gifts and directorships.

But the ministerial code — which in many ways is now much tougher about declarations since ministers are expected to consult their permanent secretaries on almost everything — is policed by the Cabinet Secretary and the Prime Minister.

This leaves Mr Blair having to make judgments on his colleagues.

Mr Campbell Savours comments came as Jack Cunningham, the cabinet "enforcer", issued a warning to rival ministers and their aides to stop anonymously briefing against each other.

"Quite clearly we need to put these matters behind us and put behind us some of the ac-

tivities of people who may think they can conduct their own agenda on their own account, whether it conflicts with the Government's aims and objectives or not," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"I say that cannot be allowed to happen... There have been briefings from time to time which have been damaging to the Government."

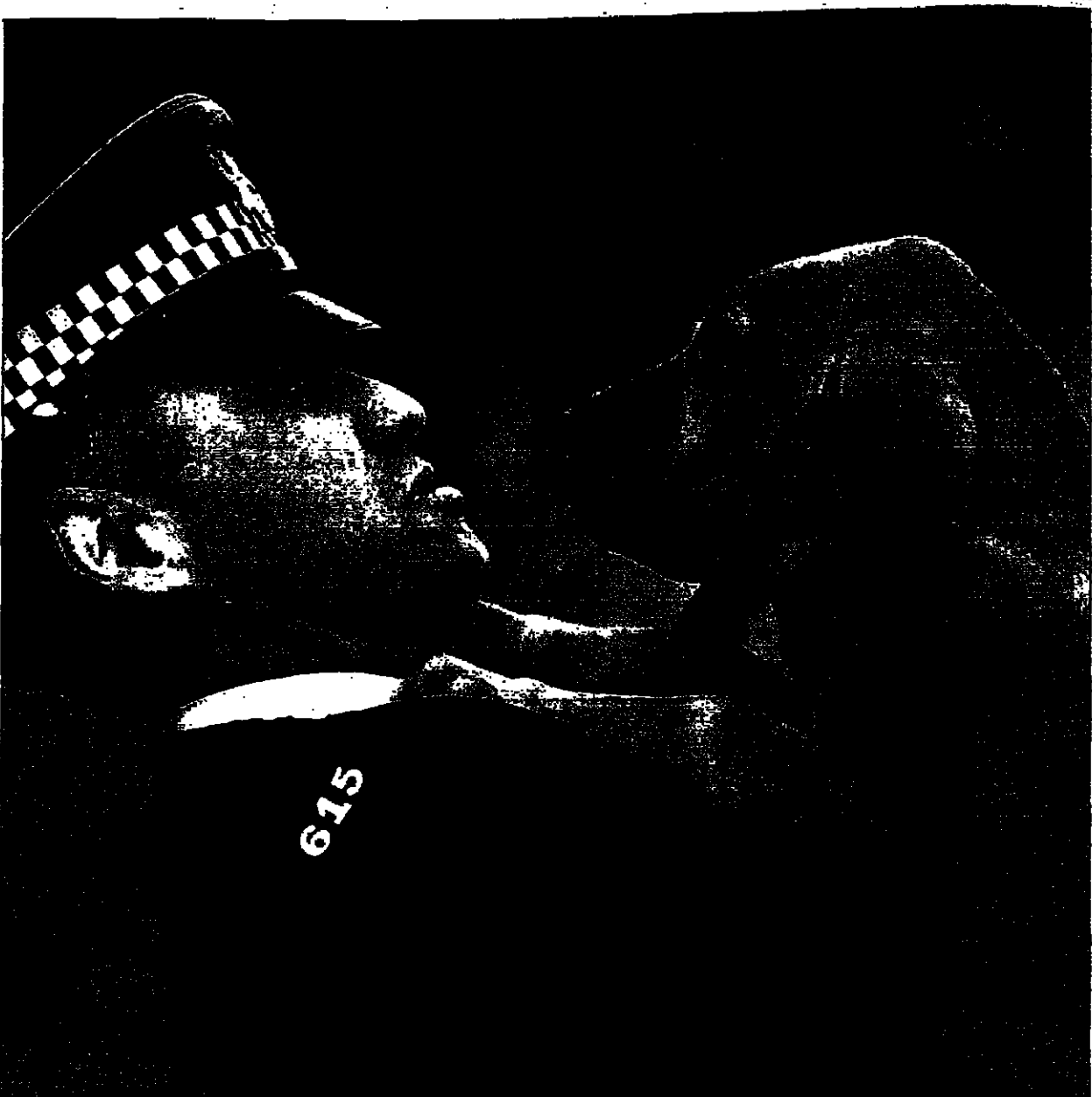
Collectively, unauthorised briefings have caused trouble for the Government, are causing trouble and ought to stop."

Last night, however, his comments were being treated with derision by some colleagues.

One said: "This is impossible to stop. He can't know when journalists are being briefed by people."

Hugo Young, page 8

On the scent of detection



Dog handler PC Mark Thomas with Merlin, a bloodhound puppy being trained by the Dyfed Powys force in Wales, where the breed is being used for police work for the first time since the 1930s. PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP REES

Weather outlook worsens as storms claim two more lives

Sarah Hall

THE British Isles face a second stormy onslaught today, as it emerged that the wild Christmas weather had claimed two more lives.

Late on Sunday a man in his 60s died in the River Medway at Strood in Kent as he tried to repair his storm-damaged houseboat. His wife was saved as the boat sank 75 yards from shore.

In Ireland, a 29-year-old man from Letterkenny, Co Donegal, died after being swept from a ladder as he repaired tiles damaged in the worst storms to strike the region for nearly 40 years, bringing the weekend's death toll to seven, including a five-year-old killed in a car crash caused by the gales.

Meanwhile, as snow fell yesterday on parts of the Pennines, Lancashire, south-east Wales and Scotland, thou-

sands of households in Ireland and Scotland today face a fourth day without electricity. In Ireland, some 60,000 homes are still cut off after the country's power services suffered their worst damage since Hurricane Debbie in 1961. It could be days before remote areas are reconnected.

In Scotland, 7,000 homes in Dumfries and Galloway, Lanarkshire, the Mull of Kintyre, Arran, Bute and Dumoon are still cut off, although most

should have power restored today.

Also in Scotland, rail travel was disrupted, with lines from Gourock to Paisley and Largs to Ardrossan not expected to resume normal services until today.

But the Met Office last night warned that Ireland, the West of Scotland, west Wales and the South-west will suffer more storms today, with winds of up to 75mph and torrential rain.

New measures announced to stop more child prostitute prosecutions



Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

NEW measures to ensure that far fewer children are prosecuted by the police, and instead are treated by the social services as victims of abuse and coercion, are to be announced today by the Home Office.

The new official guidance stops short of full-scale decriminalisation but is accompanied by tougher sanctions against pimps and the punters who abuse children.

The decision by the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to end the prosecution of child prostitutes, save in the most extreme cases, follows evidence from child welfare charities that the scale of the trade in Britain has been vastly underestimated.

Two pilot projects in Not-

tingham and Wolverhampton discovered 125 boys and girls aged from 11 to 18 selling sex — four times the number of children previously thought to be involved in prostitution. Twenty-two men and three women were prosecuted for offences ranging from rape to living off immoral earnings.

The joint Home Office/Department of Health guidance says: "There are children involved in prostitution in many parts of Britain. They may not be visible to a casual or even an informed observer. They may not be obvious on the streets. But there will be children being abused through prostitution in rooms and flats in many towns. This is a hidden problem; we do not know how many children are involved."

The Home Office's latest figures show that 288 girls under 17 were cautioned and a further 177 convicted for solic-

'These children are utterly desperate, they are not making a free economic or moral choice. Our new guidance is intended to enable all agencies to... work with and divert children from this evil trade'

Home Office minister Paul Boateng

ing offences in 1996. Some six boys under the age of 18 were cautioned for child prostitution.

"Although the Government does not rule out the possibility that criminal justice action may be necessary in certain circumstances an indiscriminate use of the criminal justice system is not appropriate."

But ministers have taken the view that the criminal law played an important role in expressing society's view that child prostitution was not acceptable.

Decriminalisation also "risks creating a perverse incentive to encourage children into prostitution."

Instead the welfare agencies and the police should regard those involved in prostitution as "children in need, who may be suffering, or may be likely to suffer, significant harm". The role of the wel-

fare agencies should be to protect the children from further abuse and help them find a way out of prostitution.

The Home Office minister, Paul Boateng, said: "These children are utterly desperate, they are not making a free economic or moral choice. Our new guidance is intended to enable all agencies to... work with and divert children from this evil trade."

The Children's Society and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children welcomed the new guidance but said the Government should have decriminalised the role of the child victims.

"The illegality of child prostitution is sometimes used by pimps to entrap children who have become involved," said an NSPCC spokeswoman. The Children's Society said there was no excuse for a law which punished abused children.

Nottingham child prostitution initiative

- Launched: January 1997
- Caseload of under-18s: girls 55, boys 31
- Percentage not returning to prostitution: girls 68, boys 77
- Minimum estimate of child prostitute numbers: 125
- Minimum age recorded: 11
- Percentage of national convictions for pimping: 18
- Adults arrested for child prostitution and pornography: 15
- Convicted: 9 (no child witnesses involved)
- Prosecutions pending: 6
- Girls stopped for offering sex: 10 (January 1996-1997)
- Girls stopped for prostitution: 338
- Girls stopped for pornography: 10
- Girls stopped for both: 10
- Girls stopped for other reasons: 10

Hopes of improved skills, from reading to risotto

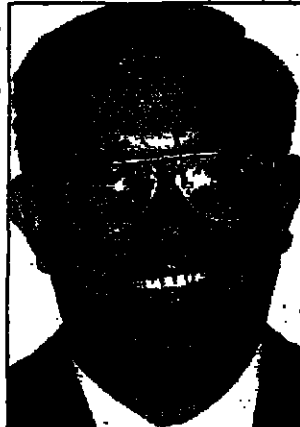
John Carvel
Education Editor

TONY Blair wants to become more proficient on the computer. William Hague's priority is to learn more Welsh from his wife, Ffion. And Paddy Ashdown is determined to improve his French to allow more fluent communication with his first grandchild, born last year in France.

Their new year's resolutions were published yesterday by the Campaign for Learning, a government-backed charity that is trying to increase the nation's appetite for lifelong education.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, says he intends "to read more non-political fiction in the National Year of Reading, as non-fiction is so often what politicians read all the time".

Chris Woodhead, his abrasive chief inspector of schools, may unleash panic



Bill Giles: BBC forecaster hopes to learn French

French, while keeping up the line dancing lessons with his wife. His colleague, Michael Fish, has an urge to play the drums — a resolution shared by Clare Curtis, MP for Crosby. And Libby Purves, the writer and broadcaster, wants to improve her skills on the penny whistle, especially learning how to do trills.

From the corporate world, Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, promises himself to learn more about Captain Kidd; Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, wants a cooking lesson from Yan Kit So, author of Chinese cookery books; and David Brown, chairman of Motorola, intends to learn to cook the perfect risotto.

The most common resolution among MPs is to learn how to use the Internet. But John McDonnell, MP for Hayes and Harlington, wants to learn basic Punjabi so he can communicate with more of his constituents.

Maev Kennedy on the drama and tragedy revealed by a handful of coins

Token memory of transported convicts

TIMOTHY Millett holds a handful of lives in the palm of his hand: a teenager transported for life for stealing a silk handkerchief, a baker's boy for stealing a few clothes, a 15-year-old for stealing some lead off a roof and who died after the long sea voyage into exile, and Mary Ann Whitlock, a vagrant fond of a drink.

There is high drama, passion and tragedy in the handful of dull brown coins. Mr Millett owns the largest collection in the world of convict tokens, souvenirs for sweethearts, made before transportation by prisoners who would never see Britain again.

Mary Ann's token is inscribed: Adieu, Dear Aunt Adien, presumably for want of husband, lover or parent.

On January 13 the British Museum will mount an exhibition of the tokens, and the lost lives which Mr Millett has exhumed from the Newgate Calendar, county assizes records, and convict shipping records.

The exhibition, the first ever, was seen last year in Australia, where it unleashed painful family memories, in-

cluding the story of the unfortunate convict who escaped back to London, and was walking down Pall Mall when he met the judge who had sentenced him. He was recognised immediately and transported again.

The Treasury, by producing one of the clumsiest British coins ever, the "cartwheel pennies" of the late 18th century, provided the convicts with an endless supply of cheap soft metal to make tokens.

The most common slogan is the sentimental: "Remember me, when this you see". They also usually promise and command fidelity: "Think On Me Until I safe return to thee," wrote J.C. in 1890.

Mr Millett finds these very touching. "They are all written in the presumption that they will be reunited, but this was nonsense, of course. These people were never going to meet again. And Elsie might have sat sighing in the corner for a few weeks over Harry, but then I bet she got up, shook herself, and got on with finding someone else."

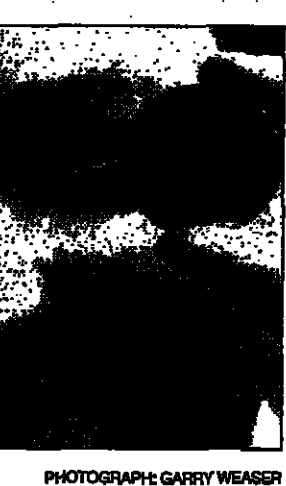
Sometimes tokens are extremely personal: one of two teenage pickpockets, caught

in the act in Birmingham market and transported, wrote "That Cruel Jew did me wrong, Swearing my cent life away," which Mr Millett finds extremely unlikely. E.A., whom he has been unable to trace, made her token for her father, with a crude little drawing of a house inscribed desolately: "This was once my cottage of peace".

His researches occasionally uncover an unexpected happy ending. Mary Ann Whitlock, after repeated fines for drunkenness and vagrancy, married, had children, and prospered.

Mr Millett was born into the London firm of coin dealers, A. H. Baldwin and Sons, a small family firm hidden away behind the Savoy Hotel.

There was consternation when the young history graduate was most interested in the occasional worthless modern coin defaced with political slogans. His first was a Georgian penny with Britannia's face artfully turned into a snail, and the engraved message: "Gibbs, Lord Mayor, pelted with rotten eggs 1845". He caused further horror



Timothy Millett with tokens

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

by buying back a collection of hundreds of convict tokens from an old customer.

In theory, this might have been smart: the tokens were often thrown away as scrap when dealers got them, and now sell for up to £800 each.

In practice, Mr Millett cannot bear to sell them, and has bought several since his exhibition and book drove the prices up further.

He wonders if the exhibition will unleash a torrent of

tokens from button boxes and the backs of kitchen drawers. More than 182,000 men, women and children were transported over 75 years, by 825 ships. If only one in 10 of the convicts made tokens, there are a lot still out there.

Convict Love Tokens exhibition, British Museum, January 13 to April 12, 1994. Book £12.95 available from A. H. Baldwin and Sons, phone 0171 930 6879.

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Observers are sceptical but a shaky ceasefire has taken hold. Chris Bird reports from Belgrade

More Kosovo monitors promised

THE International community vowed to send more unarmed observers to Kosovo as a truce was maintained yesterday after four days of clashes.

But observers deployed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said they saw Serb army and police units moving between the regional capital Pristina and the northern town of Podujevo, near the recent fighting which left at least 15 people dead.

Ethnic Albanian guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) kept control of several surrounding villages.

Serb officials said yesterday that KLA gunmen were responsible for the deaths of three ethnic Roma late on Sunday in the town of Kosovska Mitrovica. The incident has not been independently confirmed.

There have been no incidents reported today, Jorgen Grunnet, a spokesman for the observer mission, said.

The KLA commander of

Kosovo's northern region, who gave his name as Remi, said of the truce: "We will stick to it." But he added: "We are determined to stay here, and fight if necessary."

The observers' chief in Kosovo, the US diplomat William Walker, who crossed the front lines at the weekend to urge the two sides to respect the ceasefire, was in Vienna yesterday to brief OSCE officials.

"We are, of course, sceptical all the time [of ceasefire agreements] but this is part of

the job," Wolfgang Petritsch, Austria's ambassador to Yugoslavia and the European Union's special representative on Kosovo, said yesterday.

"The observers' job is to pacify the situation through their sheer presence, through their patrolling and so on," he said.

The OSCE monitoring mission was part of an accord clinched by the US Balkans envoy Richard Holbrooke, with Yugoslavia's President Slobodan Milosevic last October. There are now about

600 international monitors in Kosovo, 70 of them British.

Despite the OSCE expressing cold feet over its Kosovo mission — the largest of its type ever fielded by the organisation — Mr Petritsch said it planned to bring the mission up to full strength by the end of the month.

A British diplomat in Belgrade confirmed yesterday that more British observers would make their way to the province early next week to join missions in Kosovo's towns of Pec and Mitrovica.

Britain has promised about 160 observers to the mission, the largest contribution after Italy and Germany.

Peace talks brokered by the British diplomat Christopher Hill have got nowhere in recent weeks, with neither Serbs nor the divided ethnic Albanians willing to countenance any compromise over Kosovo's status. Any serious compromise from either side would amount to political suicide.

The weekend clashes are in some ways a boon for the KLA

and nationalist Albanian politicians, who see the only way of gaining independence in the face of massive Serb firepower as an international protectorate.

With the unarmed observers already dragged into peacekeeping duties, the ethnic Albanians appear to be halfway there. The observers are only mandated to "verify" Mr Milosevic's troop withdrawals, not to negotiate between heavily armed Serb soldiers and ethnic Albanian guerrillas.

Asked if the OSCE monitors were poor men's peacekeepers, Mr Petritsch said: "That would change the mandate, but that is part of the mission also, where the instruments of controlling and implementing the ceasefire are being developed as we go along."

"The situation is dramatic, but we should not over-dramatise it, as that would play into the hands of the extremists on both sides," Petritsch said.

Leader comment, page 9

'Mad Vlad' proposes third way for sex starved Russians

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

VLADIMIR Zhirinovskiy, Russia's leading maverick nationalist politician, yesterday underlined his reputation for unconventional thinking by promising to liberate sexually frustrated Russians from "American masturbatory hegemony" and proposing state-sponsored sex as the answer to the country's crisis.

His popularity under threat from new nationalist forces and his chauvinism increasingly the norm among Russian politicians, Mr Zhirinovskiy is turning to sex in a desperate attempt to win back support among his key constituency — the macho Russian male — before parliamentary elections next year.

In a new book, *The ABC of Sex*, he complements his trademark ranting against the United States' foreign policy with an outspoken denunciation of its sexual mores.

"Aggressive anti-sexuality is typical of the state sexual politics of America. As America is the self-proclaimed leader of the modern world, this is very dangerous and the struggle against US influence in sex



The ultra-nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy believes state-sponsored sex is the answer to Russia's problems

and sexual ideology is crucial," he writes.

He proposes a "third way" between American sexuality, which he criticises for emphasising "getting rather than giving enjoyment", and the sterile puritanism of the Soviet era.

With all the crusading zeal of a Slavic Dr Ruth — and describing his book as the "greatest contribution to sexuality since Freud" — he urges

Russian men and women to increase their sexual output and abandon monogamy.

"The author shows how to provide each woman with a man, at least one man, preferably two, ideally three: a sex knight, a husband and a young lover," he writes.

Ten years ago a Soviet official insisted during a live television link-up with the US that "there is no sex in the

Soviet Union". Now "mad Vlad" has come to the rescue.

Claiming he is concerned by the rise in sexual violence in Russia, Mr Zhirinovskiy suggests every virgin should have sex with an experienced man. The man should then give her a silver ring bought from the state as a "sexual certificate" on which his name is inscribed. Because young, potentially violent men could

not afford such rings, women would benefit.

To relieve stress among Russia's beleaguered astronauts he proposes sending prostitutes to space. Prostitutes should also be licensed to the state and to prisons.

He also proposes an official role for middle-aged women in deflowering teenage boys. "This is the ideal sexual combination," he writes.

Zhirinovskiy on the economy:

'Russia faces the task of building a sexually orientated economy. This will give us a big injection of capital'

Zhirinovskiy on the US:

'America is not simply a sexually backward country, but a country which practically leads a policy of sexual terrorism'

Zhirinovskiy on himself:

'Zhirinovskiy is the sexual knight to all the girls of Russia'

Montenegrins fear protest will lead to Serb-backed coup

Jonathan Steele

MONTENEGRO'S leaders are increasingly nervous that allies of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, may mount a coup during next month's anniversary celebrations marking the inauguration a year ago of President Milo Djukanovic.

Officials of the opposition Socialist People's Party (SPP) have announced they will mark the anniversary on January 15 with a demonstration.

The rally might sound innocent, except that Mr Milosevic strongly supports Momir Bulatovic, the SPP leader, and appointed him as Yugoslavia's prime minister after he lost the elections in Montenegro.

Similar protests on the day of the inauguration last January led to clashes in which 40 police were injured.

Fears that Mr Milosevic would use the disturbances to declare a state of emergency and send in the Yugoslav army abated when it became clear that his army chief of staff was against intervention.

But Mr Zhirinovskiy has since sacked the chief of staff, prompting renewed fears that this time the army may step in.

Montenegro is increasingly at odds with Serbia. Mr Djukanovic and his

allies resent the isolation from the rest of Europe that Mr Milosevic's antagonistic policies have caused.

Because of Mr Bulatovic's appointment and Mr Milosevic's refusal to allow MPs from Mr Djukanovic's party to take their seats in parliament, Montenegro is refusing to accept federal government decisions or laws, and is withholding tax revenues.

Its ministers have hinted that they may set up a separate currency if Serbia succumbs to hyper-inflation.

The fighting in Kosovo, which shares a border with Montenegro, has further soured relations.

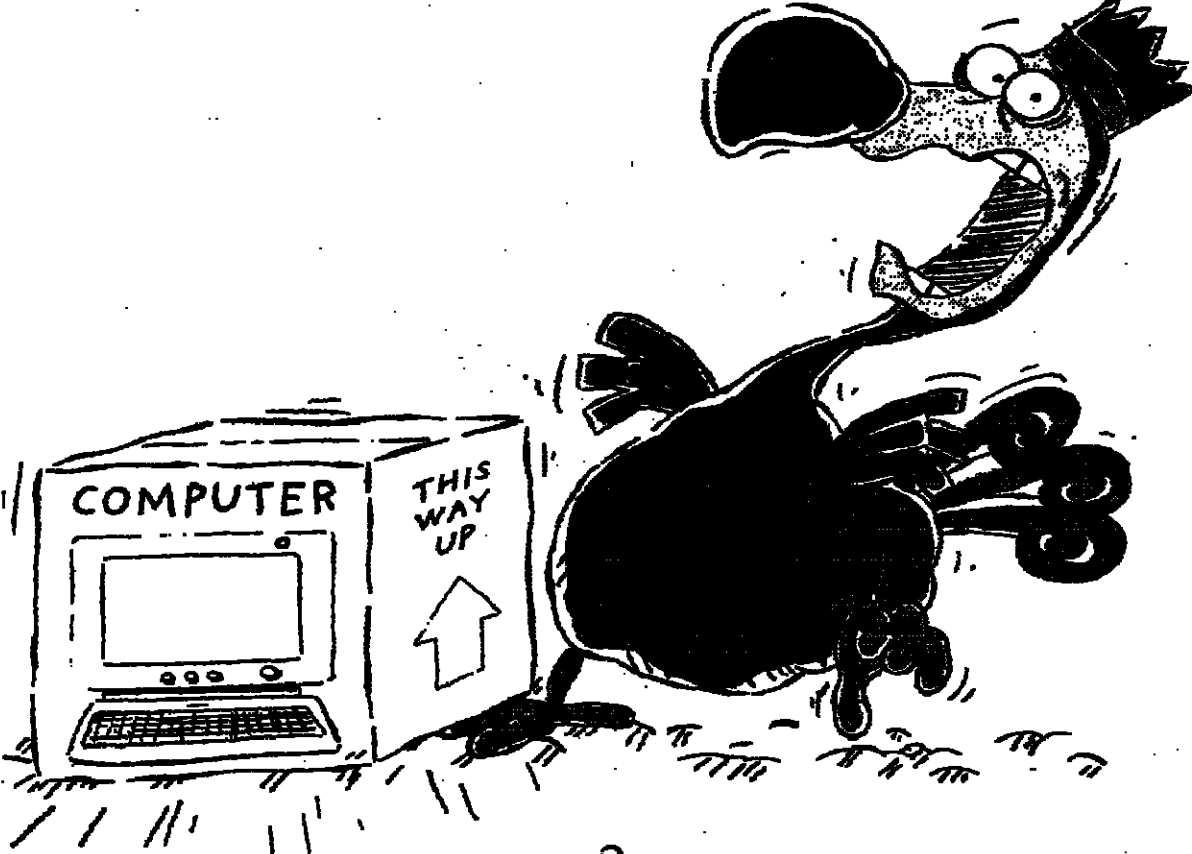
Supporters of independence say Montenegro could make a living from tourism because of its spectacular Adriatic coastline.

But at present its land borders along the Adriatic are not open to holiday-makers, because Mr Milosevic retains the constitutional right to control the federation's borders.

"He wants to choke us, we suffer big economic damage," Novak Kilibarda, Montenegro's deputy prime minister, said. In his view, Mr Milosevic will strike back at Montenegro's defiance.

"Only when we have a democratic regime in Serbia can we harmonise our relations with Belgrade," he added.

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Euro-sceptics abandon French National Front

Paul Webster in Paris

THOUSANDS of supporters have deserted France's National Front, according to the first opinion poll since its chairman, Jean-Marie Le Pen, expelled his rival, Bruno

Mégret. The poll on expected voting patterns for the European elections in June showed the far rightwing vote had shrunk from 16 per cent to 14 per cent within days.

But the survey published by the *Liberation* newspaper indicated that Mr Le Pen would have a marked lead over the former delegate-general if they set up rival lists of candidates.

Mr Le Pen had 10 per cent — not enough to return an MEP.

Most of the voters appear to have switched to the Euro-sceptic Movement for France, whose leader, Philippe de Villiers, has teamed up with the Gaullist former interior minister, Charles Pasqua. They have 9 per cent support.

News in brief

Wines leave bad taste

SOME of France's most prestigious wines may have been contaminated by pesticides, a wine trade association acknowledged yesterday. The French magazine *L'Express* had revealed that the pesticides, used to treat wood, posed no health hazard but produced a corky taste.

L'Express reported that wines from a number of regions had been affected. The Bordeaux Wine Board said the public had not been informed because it was "relatively minor". — *AP Paris*.

Massacre in Algeria

MUSLIM rebels cut the throats of 15 villagers, including eight children, in the worst massacre in Algeria since the start of Ramadan, the government said yesterday. Five villagers were also reported wounded in the Sunday night attack at Zoula hamlet in Ain Defla province. — *Reuters, Algiers*.

Child slaves free in Nepal

POLICE raided a carpet factory in Nepal and freed dozens of children, some as young as 13 years, from forced labour, officials said yesterday. Police said they were tipped off by workers who had escaped the Kathmandu factory. — *Reuters, Kathmandu*.

Begin junior in bid for PM

BENJAMIN Begin, the son of the former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and an

opponent of the land-for-peace agreements with Palestine, said yesterday that he is leaving the Likud party to run for prime minister.

Benjamin Begin, aged 55, served as science minister in Binyamin Netanyahu's government, but quit after Mr Netanyahu refused to pull troops out of Hebron in January 1997. — *AP Tel Aviv*.

Bhutto kept in Pakistan

PAKISTAN'S former prime minister Benazir Bhutto said yesterday she had been barred from leaving the country. Ms Bhutto was to fly to Dubai to see her children, her lawyer, Farooq Naek, said. He added that last week Ms Bhutto had been given her passport back and a written court order allowing her to travel, despite corruption cases pending against her. — *Reuters, Karachi*.

18 killed in explosion

AT LEAST 18 people were killed and nearly 100 injured when a truck laden with detonators and fuses exploded after colliding with a bus in eastern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday. The explosion occurred as rescuers tried to pull people from the wreckage. — *Agency, Beijing*.

MTV to air Schroeder

GERMAN chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's first New Year's address to the nation will debut on the music channel MTV, in an afternoon special, featuring the country's public stations, MTV said yesterday. — *Agency, Hamburg*.

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Comment

Diary
Matthew Norman

As ever at this time of year, the Diary wishes to pay its respects to the police. It may be easy for the subversive, Guardian-reading types Mr Tony Blair calls "the sneezers" to ridicule the British policeman as a dim-witted plod, but this column remains dedicated to fighting lazy stereotyping with stories that show our crime fighters as the resourceful and intelligent men and women we know them to be. Below, we celebrate several officers for acts of unusual heroism. To them, their fellow nominees for the monthly title of PC Brains, and to their thousands of unsung colleagues, we offer thanks for their selfless service in 1998, and wish them well for 1999.

CALLED out to investigate complaints that someone was trapped in a north London house, Steve McKee of Potters Bar repeatedly shouted through the letter box. This only elicited louder banging from within, so PC McKee removed a window pane and entered the house. His search discovered no one, however, and it was at this point that PC McKee summoned the fire brigade. When even their thermal imaging equipment turned up nothing, he finally decided to knock on the door of the next-door neighbour who had made the complaint in the first place, and came across the neighbour's bored son, aged eight, banging on his bedroom wall.

AFTER stopping three young men in a Cortina during a speed check in Birmingham, Jerry Savage asked the driver for his name and then instantly arrested him. "Do you know how I know you were giving false details?" PC Savage asked the suspect back at the station. "The initials on your belt say CK," said the constable, exclaiming in another three pipe problem swiftly solved. "And the initials of the name you gave are DE." "That's all very well," said the suspect courteously, "but the belt is made by Calvin Klein."

THE title of PC Brains went overseas three times this year, most notably to the unnamed police trainee in Paris who was caught cycling the wrong way down a one-way street. When asked why he was illegally carrying a firearm, he calmly explained that the area to which he was cycling in order to buy drugs was unsafe.

DOUTLESS eager to impress the senior officer he was chauffeuring at the time, West Yorkshire traffic cop Paul Feather reacted smartly when he heard an alarm at a nearby factory. He drove straight to the scene, and on noting smoke seeping under the factory doors, broke them down, charged in and doused the blaze. It was not until the smoke had fully cleared that PC Feather was able to observe that he was standing in the area set aside by a meat company for the smoking of its bacon.

NO officer puts more into his work than Richard Watling of the Muswell Hill Community Police Unit. Sergeant Watling, who is in charge of the area's truancy patrols, excelled himself in the summer by stopping one obvious class-bunker on the street. "Now then young man," he asked the boy, "what school do you go to?" "I am not a young man," the naughty little type replied. "I am a lady. And I don't go to school because I'm 38."

ON reopening a seven year old murder investigation, detectives at Welwyn Garden City centred their efforts on finding a key witness, Pippa Anna Pitter, who had been named by an interviewee in a taped statement. Miss Pitter continued to evade them, however, until one of the team suggested they listen to the tape again. In a scene of exaggerated tension familiar to Prime Suspect, the entire incident room gathered to hear the crucial evidence. "She was horrible, she had a face like..." the team heard as the tape was played. "I mean, she looked like Pepperoni Pizz."



We do want ruthless, adventurous risk-takers in politics. Not worms

Hugo Young



THIS has been the year of the politician as fallen man. Heaped upon him are expectations of virtue he can never meet, and he has betrayed them, whether with a woman in Washington or with a ministerial mortgage in Notting Hill. It is all terribly disappointing. The defining images of 1998, if you can forget Baghdad bombings and Kosovo murders and starvation in Russia and the falling degrees of social inequality to be seen in every advanced country in the world, are of vengeance wreaked on Icarus.

The gloating, naturally, has been fervid. Are not the Aungmye Stables being scored cleaner? Isn't the political leader being called to account for his failure as the role-model, in matters moral and monetary which he is meant to be? Maybe. By all means let's hold these people to account. But if moral perfection is the standard, soon there will be no leaders left. The case that's forgotten in such pious lamentations is the case for the unrivalling politician.

The politician as role-model is quite a recent invention. The extension of public accountability into every cranny of his character was not an experience the predecessors of Clinton and Mandelson had to suffer. Great men had weaknesses that bear a close resemblance to modern frailties, yet still rose to the pinnacle of esteem. Was this because the weaknesses were less gross — or because they were regarded with a sense of perspective which entirely eludes the frantic scourges of the 1990s?

In 1848, the penniless Disraeli borrowed £40,000 — the equivalent today of roughly £2 million — to set

himself up with a country house. Part of the money was sought from the Norwich Union, but the other two-thirds was handed out by the Conservative leader's wealthy patrons, Lord George and Lord Henry Bentinck. Nobody seems to have thought anything of the two-way indebtedness that resulted. Disraeli's biographer, Robert Blake, was unable to disentangle the exact circumstances of the loan even a hundred years later, but writes with certainty that the Bentincks "never intended to call in the money". This was merely the climax of a life of notorious personal fecklessness with money, which still did not bar Disraeli from serving two terms as Prime Minister, and becoming one of the most esteemed reformers in history.

In 1912, David Lloyd George agreed to buy shares in the American Marconi Co., having been put in the way of them, before they were available to the public, by the Attorney-General, whose brother happened to be a Marconi director. Lloyd George was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the time, and the British Government was a coming purchaser of the wonders of Marconi wireless telegraphy. The shares rose 20 per cent the day they came on the open market.

Suspect insider trading would now doubtless lead to exile from even the remotest purities of civilised life. It causes a serious crisis at the time, from which, however, Lloyd George was permitted to extricate himself by force of oratory, leading to a parliamentary vote.

Here, too, the surrounding state has a close contemporary echo. Prime Minister Asquith insisted that in the Marconi scandal only "rules

of prudence", not "rules of obligation", had been broken. The minister had shown poor judgment but was "absolutely unstained". "I acted thoughtlessly, I acted carelessly, I acted mistakenly, but I acted innocently," pleaded Lloyd George, some decades before a politician's training made such pseudo-confessional soundbites second nature.

At that time, you could get a hearing for the view that no serious person went into politics to make money. There wasn't a senior person on either side, Lloyd George said: "Who would not in business make ten times as much as he makes in politics. The men who go into politics to make money are not politicians. Men go in, if you like, for fame... for ambition... from a sense of duty. But for mere cupidity, never!" And so he was forgiven. It was just as well.

HE later became a great Prime Minister and war leader. "Perhaps the public reaction, or lack of it, reflected a true sense of the national interest," his biographer, John Grigg, writes, "as well as a shrewd understanding of the frailty of politicians."

Alongside his financial peccadilloes, Lloyd George was the first Prime Minister openly to keep a mistress. But that knew about it, to be a serial adulterer, in which condition he was nonetheless managed the Cuban missile crisis to a peaceful end, as well as inspiring multitudes of young idealists all over the world. His successor, LBJ, owner of a formidable array of private vices, was indicted for nothing except the prosecution of the Vietnam War.

Large figures of the past, in other words, have been beset by human failings which were not relevant to their public performance. Their job-description was different in those days. While seeking to be admired, they didn't think much about being loved. While needing to be trusted for their public judgment, they weren't required to lay bare their private transactions, from bedroom to bank account, to prove it. Their public conduct was just about all that mattered, for better or for worse. This was a framework which helped the attractions of public life to outweigh its penalties, and resulted for most of this century in these two countries at least, in a fair proportion of the brightest and the best opting to become politicians.

That's no longer so. What do I mean by best? Among other things, risk-takers, and people of bold, category-shifting vision: people who can live at the edge of the possible: ruthless as well as decent people, adventurous as well as honest, and revisionist not conformist. People with the brains to be inventive, and the guts to be unpopular. Borrowing a lot of money or sleeping with more than one woman, doesn't disqualify a man from any of those claims on our support. It may even show he has what it takes. Just so long as we don't look to him to do everything, public and private, according to rules laid down by... by whom? Far from raising standards of government, the year of the serial Icarus seems far more likely to push politics towards the lowest common nality.

Thursday: The real lesson of Bill and Peter

Convention places an obligation on every state to prosecute anyone in its territory against whom there is sufficient evidence. Alternatively, that individual must be extradited to another country willing to put him

on trial. Torture is usually carried out by governments or their agents. There is nothing in the Convention exempting the very people most likely to be responsible — military dictators who have seized and maintained power by

He couldn't string sentences together like Robert Harris

Adoring the rich

Paul Foot



QUEASY stomachs, which usually suffer during the Christmas holiday, have been made much worse this year by mourning for Mandelson. Top people everywhere reflect on the "personal tragedy" of a "fine and able man" brought down by what he calls an "error of judgment", and what the Prime Minister calls "a mistake".

The downfall of Mandelson, however, is not a tragedy. It is a cause for great rejoicing. The fine man is exposed as a greedy, grasping, upwardly-mobile courtier. His behaviour is not an error of judgment or a mistake. It is entirely in line with everything he and New Labour stand for.

The point about New Labour is that it is neither new nor Labour. Its central doctrine is a very old one: that rich people should be free to get richer... and to run the country into the bargain. At the beginning of the century the doctrine was challenged by a combination of universal suffrage and the Labour Party, which came into being to represent the people who produced the wealth, but had none of it, or in the words of the old Clause Four, "to secure for the workers the full fruits of their industry".

This new notion took some hard knocks from successive Labour leaders who were fascinated or frightened by the rich. Somehow it survived, at least in name, until New Labour came along with a version of Old Liberalism whose fundamental principle was to surrender economic and political power to the rich. No one believed in this more passionately than Mandelson. He adored the rich and wallowed in their wake. He wanted to be another Robert Harris, but he could not string two sentences together, so he had to find a short cut to the wealth to which he was obviously entitled.

What could be more natural than to turn a few hundred thousand quid off a Labour backbencher whose only recognisable merit was the millions of pounds he had been left by a female admirer, a millionaire called Bourgeois?

If the antics of the rich were confined to the seasons of Notting Hill, they could be dismissed with amused contempt. But the implications trickle down.

Rich people boast that their riches have some connection with their ability. Not so. The

vast majority of rich people owe their riches to inheritance. Most of those who have become rich in their lifetime have successfully gambled on the Stock Exchange or engaged in boardroom bullying. The key to their wealth is exploitation. They have secured for themselves the full fruits of other peoples' labour. The high point of equality in British society coincided with the growth of trade union confidence in the 1930s and early 1970s. Similarly, the hideous inequalities of recent years have only been made possible by laws against trade unions. Mandelson was absurdly proud of his recent White Paper on Competitiveness, which tore up a hundred years of social democratic endeavour. Simultaneously he slipped out his plans for the unions. If the rich were to be freed from Government interference, he concluded, unions had to be constrained by Government interference. Thus even the mild proposals for legally-enforced trade union recognition, set out in Margaret Beckett's White Paper last year, were watered down to nothing by Mandelson. Even the "right" to sack workers who take part in legal strikes, a right so monstrously exploited against impoverished Asian workers in the current Skychef dispute at Heathrow, was reinstated. There is no third way. If Labour Ministers grovel to the rich, they must attack the organised workers and the poor. This is the New Labour

The point about New Labour is that it is neither new nor Labour

"project" which Blair says will "go on". If it does go on, the millions who voted Labour with such enthusiasm last year can look forward to nothing but more inequality, more union-bashing — and more corruption.

THE new DPP Mr David Calvert-Smith QC, has started his term of office with a significant change of policy. In past cases of proved injustice resulting in prison terms for innocent people (Birmingham Six, Guildford Four etc) the DPP's policy has been to prosecute police officers for alleged fabrication of evidence. These cases invariably resulted in acquittals.

The DPP's new policy is not to prosecute. The successful appeal of the men wrongly convicted of the murder of Carl Bridgewater threw up the plainest possible evidence of police involvement in faking a false confession.

After the usual delay Mr Calvert-Smith announces that no one will be prosecuted. Surely the new DPP should give himself a new name: Director for the Protection of Police.

Whatever Hoffmann did wrong, it is absurd to say Pinochet has diplomatic privileges. We should still proceed against him in the New Year

False immunity

Geoffrey Bindman

THE Pinochet case is bringing the British legal system into disrepute, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, said yesterday, and new procedures were needed to prevent undeclared apparent conflicts of interest among the Law Lords.

But this is not the only issue. Lord Hoffmann's failure to make a public declaration at the Pinochet hearing of his well-known links to an Amnesty charity can now be seen, with the benefit of hindsight, as a mistake — but it was a matter of form not substance. No one could sensibly believe that his opinion on the legal scope of an ex-head of state's immunity from prosecution for crimes against humanity was influenced by the participation of Amnesty in the hearing.

What we can be sure of is that he was guided by his

commitment to the fundamental human rights which the UK has accepted as obligations. That is as it should be. The judges are increasingly recognising that human rights are at the centre of their task. In that light, the decision denying Pinochet immunity was plainly correct. The new panel of judges, which will hear the appeal in January, should have no difficulty in replicating it.

Spain and the UK have both signed the UN Convention against Torture. The Tories introduced the Convention into our law in the Criminal Justice Act 1988. Section 134 makes torture, committed anywhere in the world by a public official of any country, a crime. Although the offences with which Pinochet is charged occurred mainly before 1988, both the High Court and the Lords agreed that the parallel between the offences of torture in Spain

and the UK was sufficient to justify extradition. It was only on the totally distinct issues of immunity that the two English courts disagreed.

Pinochet's previous visits to Britain have largely gone unnoticed by the public but in 1991 and 1994 attempts to persuade the Attorney-General of the day to take action failed. There was simply not enough time before the bird had flown. This time that excuse is not available.

Though the human rights organisations and victims of torture would be content to see Pinochet tried in Spain (or elsewhere), the effort to make him answerable in a British court must continue. His victims included British subjects Dr Sheila Cassidy, William Beansire and Father Miguel Woodward. Dr Cassidy, thankfully, remains alive. The fate of the others has never been firmly established. Notwith-

standing the evidence of Pinochet's guilt, the Attorney-General, John Morris, has continued to withhold his consent to a prosecution here. He makes the arguable claim that he cannot consider cases of torture before section 134 came into force, but there is strong evidence of torture under Pinochet after that date. The Attorney-General has not justified his unwillingness to act on that evidence.

Only one prosecution has been brought under section 134. In September 1997 a Sudanese doctor living in Dundee, Ahmed Mahgoub, was charged — with the consent of the Attorney-General — with collaborating in torture at a detention centre in Sudan which was operated by the secret police. Coincidentally, his trial is due to start on January 8, the same day as the Pinochet appeal in the Lords. The UN

Convention places an obligation on every state to prosecute anyone in its territory against whom there is sufficient evidence. Alternatively, that individual must be extradited to another country willing to put him

on trial. Torture is usually carried out by governments or their agents. There is nothing in the Convention exempting the very people most likely to be responsible — military dictators who have seized and maintained power by

extreme violence. The Convention affirms explicitly the Nuremberg principle that torture (as any other crime against humanity) cannot be justified because it is done under the orders of a superior officer. It would be an absurdity if the most senior officer, the dictator, could claim immunity.

If there is to be any immunity at all it should be strictly limited to the situations covered by the Vienna Convention — designed to remove the threat of arrest from government officials (including heads of state) engaged in diplomatic contacts. The difference of opinion in the courts on Pinochet's claim to immunity has revolved entirely around the interpretation of UK law on diplomatic immunity, yet it is quite plain that he has no genuine diplomatic status.

Geoffrey Bindman is Amnesty's solicitor in the Pinochet case



السنة من الزمان

Kosovo's war is back again

It's time for tough action

TWO MONTHS earlier than predicted, the war in Kosovo has returned to haunt Western policymakers. Those who hoped the snows of winter would silence the guns until early March now have to recognise that the old problems are already back. The Yugoslav army has moved into action in a north-eastern area of the Serb-run province which had suffered almost no fighting until now. Five thousand Kosovo Albanians have had to abandon their villages and spend the last four days tramping through icy hillsides to avoid the onslaught. The Kosovo Liberation Army, the military wing of the pro-independence movement, has resumed its tactics of ambushing Serb police patrols.

What prompted the latest fighting is not clear. Did Yugoslavia's President Slobodan Milosevic decide to empty and destroy a new series of strategically placed villages while the West's back was turned during Christmas and in the aftermath of the international recriminations over the bombing of Iraq? After purging his army chief of staff and several other senior officers for expressing doubts over his hard-line stance on Kosovo, was he testing the reliability of their successors with a view to bigger offensives to come? Whatever the reasons, the unexpected upsurge in war has once again demonstrated the flaws in the peace agreement which the Americans negotiated with Mr Milosevic in October. After calling earlier in the summer for a

full withdrawal of his troops and police, the deal allowed Mr Milosevic to keep around 15,000 armed men in Kosovo. Instead of dispatching a proper force of international peace-keepers, the United States and European countries only sought permission for a team of 2,000 unarmed monitors, — and even this number has not yet been deployed, partly because Mr Milosevic denies them visas. The deal gave the monitors no sanctions, other than the counter-productive threat of withdrawal, if the Yugoslav side violates the agreement. Meanwhile, the American effort to mediate a long-term solution has reached impasse because of Belgrade's claim that the Albanians are merely one of seven minorities in Kosovo and cannot have more than a bogus autonomy.

No one imagines the way forward will be easy. Although the amount of killing has not reached Bosnian proportions, the chances of compromise in Kosovo are more elusive than they were in Bosnia before the Dayton agreement of 1995. In Bosnia the Serb hardliners gave political ground once the balance of military force started to turn against them. In Kosovo this is not likely to happen, since the KLA is no match for the Yugoslav army and Serb police. Nor is there in Kosovo a formula of creative ambiguity such as the Dayton arrangement for Bosnia's theoretical reunification while preserving its practical partition. So the only solution in Kosovo, regrettably, has to be one of *force majeure*, and that means the outside world will have to impose a peace. But if it is to be a peace with justice it must address the overwhelming wish of the province's large Albanian majority to have independence and of the dwindling Serb minority to have its security and rights respected.

The only issues to be negotiated should

be guarantees for the Serb civilians, the timing of an independence referendum, and whether it can be disguised as autonomy through residual links with Yugoslavia for an interim period of years. Any international blueprint short of this risks falling into the trap which Mr Milosevic has laid. He wants the world to join him in opposing the KLA just as it has until now joined him in ruling independence out.

Europe's price

It could be low interest rates

WILL THE Government take Britain into Europe when the time is ripe or when the prices are right? It is a question worth asking because of speculation over Labour's decision to publish the EU's "harmonised" inflation index for the UK on the same day as our own home-spun RPI. Of itself, simultaneous publication means nothing beyond saving distribution costs. But it has led to reports — denied by the Treasury — that Gordon Brown, will soon announce Britain's official adoption of the EU inflation measure as a gesture of good faith towards Labour's long-term aim of joining monetary union.

These reports have been circulating shortly after the International Monetary Fund has urged Britain to use the European index rather than the government-approved RPIX as the criterion it uses when changing interest rates. The main difference between the two measures is that the UK index excludes mortgage interest payments (which makes a big difference at the moment) and a few other things including council tax. The European index is based on the spending

pattern of the whole UK population while the RPI excludes both the expenditure of the very rich and of poor pensioner households mainly dependent on state benefits. The independent Office for National Statistics still claims that the RPI "remains the best indicator of UK consumer price inflation", though it is not at all clear why. The differences between the two are important because the European index registers Britain's inflation rate at only 1.4 per cent compared with 2.5 per cent on the RPIX. If inflation is "really" only 1.4 per cent, then on this basis the Bank of England could lower interest rates immediately without jeopardising its own inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

The Government shouldn't adopt the euro-index for all purposes because that would mean increases in pensions and other benefits (which are linked to the RPI) would be raised by at least 1 percentage point less than they are now. This would be a big expenditure saving for the Treasury and the PSBR, but might just prompt pensioners to take to the streets — and few would blame them. There is, however, no reason whatever for Britain to sideline a Maastricht agreement to harmonise inflation counts. Any excuse to cut interest rates to nearer the lower European levels should be seized quickly before the chance goes away.

Punish the thugs

But not by the backdoor

RECENT performances by England may mean English supporters won't be travelling abroad much during the European Championships. But there are growing numbers of overseas club games and a lin-

gering sense from France '98 that the powers of police and courts to control fans intent on foreign mischief are still not adequate. On the face of it, that's surprising. There's now a shelf of football-related law passed since 1980. That it seems to have missed its targets probably has less to do with the ingenuity of the hooligans than the way in which government has time and again used the bludgeon of police powers to do a job that really should have been done by the clubs and football authorities themselves.

When in November he published his review of the "gaps" in footballing legislation, Jack Straw's pattern of thought was the same as his Tory predecessors — throw the book at them. There clearly is a problem in what to do about people who use football abroad as an occasion to commit violence and mayhem, or at worst, pursue racist politics by other means. The police think they have identified the troublemakers and there is public acceptance that "house arrest" in Britain is the way to deal with them. The Straw proposals are, however, an affront to civil rights and could clash with the Human Rights Act. They might be arguable provided there is very strict monitoring of how the police and courts use their powers. But that argument should take the proper form: a searching parliamentary debate on a government measure.

For a backbench Tory MP — Simon Burns — to offer up his private members' time for a bill the Government wants but cannot accommodate could sound like admirable bipartisanship. It is also a way of circumventing normal processes. Severe reductions in civil liberties, however justified in the circumstances of this sport, ought only to be accepted in full legislative self-consciousness.

Letters to the Editor

A word or three over the gate

HAVING assumed those on radio phone-ins equating the non-disclosure of a £373,000 home loan to Lord Hoffman's non-disclosure of his affiliation to Amnesty International were the usual mentally challenged callers, it was amusing to find the brilliant political analyst Hugo Young making the same comparison at the end of an otherwise excellent article (Comment, December 24). Is it a sin to believe in human rights? Miriam Karlin, London.

REPORTS of the fall of Peter Mandelson did not include accounts of distraught Labour Party activists aimlessly wandering the streets of our cities in state of shock, or of ash-faced branch officials sitting silently in the corners of pubs over the festive season. Unless our grief is brought out into the open, and freely discussed, how will we ever cope with it? Prof Robert Moore, Holywell, Flintshire.

I AM sure that the Ramblers Association have a good case for their "freedom to roam" campaign. They do not deserve to succeed on the evidence of your photograph (Walkers demand freedom to roam, December 28). For three people simultaneously to climb a gate is as great a *faux pas* in rural circles as eating soup with a pudding spoon would be at a Notting Hill dinner party. Gates are to be opened and walked through, not climbed. If impossible to open and no alternative route is available, then climb, singly, as close to the hinge as possible. Alan Williams, Pontypool.

The costs of Christmas

YOUR leader (TV's hard sell to children, December 28) rightly addresses issues around the cost of raising a family. The Government's interventions on the welfare to work programme, working families tax credit and social exclusion initiatives. Another aspect which needs to be addressed is that the quoted figure of £230 on Christmas presents per child is only an average — many parents will not have had the time to spend such a sum.

Of those who did, many will have seriously indebted themselves in order to provide for their children. Those wholly dependent upon benefit, low waged/part time employment or facing serious financial problems often find themselves excluded from mainstream credit and banking facilities. I am a money advice worker, and in my experience people will approach (or already rely on) alternative forms of credit, ranging from the legal to the illegal — loan sharks. Collection of the latter often involves violence and the withholding of benefit books. You correctly make the

point that the Government is introducing policies which will make a difference to families in work. Part of this process needs to be a serious study into the need for social banking, the provision of banking services in areas which may have little or no cover; access to a bank account so that bills and other commitments can be paid by direct debit; and the provision of low-cost loans so that such people are enabled to participate in festive activities, such as buying Christmas presents for the children, which others take for granted. Mark Newbury, North Shields, Tyne & Wear.

THE Government should impose a curfew on all TV advertisements for children's toys if it wants to be seen to be protecting the rights of families on low incomes. Their failure to rise to the challenge has already culminated in an irresponsible widening of the gap between the rich and the poor. The "must have" slogan places insurmountable pressure on all children, irrespective of whether they're wealthy or

poor, but it is felt more by children from less privileged backgrounds. Francis Anderson, Struis, Staffs.

I AM tired of hearing the whines about poor sales from the likes of Marks and Spencer (M&S turns to TV after sales slide, December 28). They blame everyone but themselves for their poor performance. They demand lower interest rates, and force suppliers to some far overseas. M&S used to enforce quality by visiting their suppliers and inspecting their factories. How do they expect to do that when the manufacturers are in Morocco, Pakistan and China?

Similarly if Tesco's sales are lower this Christmas it will be no surprise. It would appear that they were more concerned about ensuring that they had nothing left on the shelves over Christmas than about maximising sales. They were not the only retailers who appeared to be following the stock minimisation path. John Kitchen, Burton Latimer, Northants.



Time for the General to confess

JOHN Corrie (Letters, December 28) asks our sympathy for the plight of "a sad sick old man of 83" not allowed to attend church. He is right that we have a duty to be fair and humane to any accused. However, we also have a duty to uphold international law. And precisely because Pinochet was a dictator, has a country of sanctuary to return to, and a jet plane on standby, we should take no chances. His entourage will no doubt arrange for a priestly visit, at which I hope he may feel like confessing.

Precisely because (unlike those released from the Maze with whom Mr Corrie contrasts him) he did not personally commit atrocities but had

a state apparatus to hide behind, he and all like him should know that they are subject to a higher law than that which they make for themselves. Mike Cadoux, Selby, Yorks.

SO Pinochet "reigned over" Chile, but he did not actually have blood on his own hands. Connoisseurs of logical symmetry will be delighted to observe that, whereas Adolf Eichmann's claim of innocence was based on the fact that he was only carrying out orders, Pinochet now follows from the observation he was only issuing them. Allan Grimley, Ludlow, Shropshire.

The victims forgotten again in Official history of the troubles

WOULD dispute the assertion (Former IRA chief who opposed sectarianism dies at 75, December 28) that Cathal Goulding brought the Official IRA to its permanent ceasefire in 1972 "after it shot dead William Best of The Royal Irish Rangers". With the utmost respect to the memory of Ranger Best, it was widely understood at the time that the OIRA's demise was as a result of the disastrous (for all concerned) bombing of an officers' mess in Aldershot on February 22, 1972.

The building served headquarters staff of the then 16 Parachute Brigade and the purpose of the OIRA attack was always said to be as a reprisal for the Bloody Sunday incident three weeks earlier in Londonderry when Paras from the brigade opened fire on a crowd, killing 13 civilians.

It was thought a bombing at the heart of the Paras' home, would have done much to re-establish the OIRA as top dogs in the republican hierarchy, relegating the then upstart

Provisional IRA to a role as also-rans. The gamble did not pay off. The bungled bombing left a death toll of five civilian women cleaners, a male gardener and a Roman Catholic padre. Three men were later tried and convicted for the incident.

As the first journalist on the scene, one of my lasting impressions is of my call to the OIRA press office in Dublin for a reaction. The spokeswoman was adamant — despite my assurances I had been eyewitness to the immediate aftermath of the bomb — that the only victims were "12 Parachute Regiment officers". Then, as now, the real victims have been forgotten in the rhetoric of the Irish tragedy. Mike Starke, Chisle Green, Isle of Wight.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters shorter ones are more likely to appear. Please provide a reference to the relevant article.

Boys not exactly brought to book

XAN Brooks's review of the film adaptation of my play *The Boys* (late of the moment, G2, December 11), has only now been drawn to my attention. I find it in certain references to my writing which require clarification. I was not involved in the film project, and such was the extent to which the film-makers departed from the source work, there was not a single line of my dialogue left in the film. Unfavourably comparing the

film to Gary Oldman's *Nit By Mouth*, Brooks remarks: "Gordon Graham's dialogue boasts none of the crackle of Oldman's *Deirdre*." Given that it is not my dialogue, this comment should be more appropriately directed at the screenwriter, Stephen Sewell. Elsewhere in the review, Brooks remarks on the pull between director and playwright, a strain reflected in the film's lopsided take on its characters and scenery". In

contrast to director Rowan Woods's fine work, Brooks writes: "Graham's characters remain ghosts, fitting sketchily and unfulfilled through the rooms as though in some kind of a paper back story". Again, given that the characters speak none of my dialogue, nor inhabit scenes shaped by myself, responsibility lies entirely with screenwriter and director. Despite the above comments, it is a film I admire. Gordon Graham, Birchgrove, New South Wales.

Home front

WHAT would Bruce Kent say if his neighbour (Letters, December 28) had already been proved to have murdered some of his own children? What would he say, in his neighbour's shed, there was under construction a weapon aimed at Bruce Kent's

house and designed to destroy it and everyone in it? Would he tell us we should wait until his home was destroyed and his family dead before we took action? Or would he be pleased if someone would have the courtesy to take action on his behalf to secure the safety of his children? Dick Empson, Edwinstowe, Notts.

Kate Adie says M16 articles about her in the Spectator are a distortion. But she doesn't know the half of it

Licence to quill

Peter Preston



THERE was a drunk in the gutter outside the great marzipan cake of the new headquarters building, clutching an empty Martini bottle to his chest and snoring loudly. Bond paused for a moment and shook him, but he did not stir. Goddammit, everything was going to hell this New Year's Eve. His mouth set in a thin grimace. He'd been packing for his usual week with Monica at the Hilton Head Health Hydro when M had called and, suddenly, everything sucked too. It

was an emergency, the greatest challenge for 007. Bond scowled and walked, head hunched forward, across Vauxhall Bridge. "Morning, James," said the blonde with the silicone domes in the ante-chamber. "Good morning, Moneyeuro."

M was younger than he remembered, draped elegantly along a World of Leather sofa in Sahara Brown with matching camel-hair cushions. "Ah, thank God. 006 is blown by the ruddy press and 008's on honeymoon. We need an acting editor of *The Spectator* at the double, and you're it."

Bond's hands twitched at the Nicorette patch on his stomach. "But I only read GQ, sir," he said. M shrugged. "You just have to sit there, stay awake and make sure you follow our line on Europe. See, I'd at the FO have typed it for you. We shall act decisively to take a decision in the national interests when circumstances permit. Jolly simple eh?"

"But I was talking me in the canteen that *The Spectator* is full of pieces about Johnny Foreigner coming to cut our balls off," Bond said dubiously. "Are you sure you're not confusing it with the New Statesman?"

"No, we're buying that next week with a tax rebate from the Revenue. Look James, don't be so bloody thick. You've heard of double bluff. The *Spectator* is one of those. We've made it sing all the looniest tunes to make our waiting-and-seeing look sensible by comparison. You're the perfect man for the job."

Two hours, half a grouse and a bottle of Chateau Latour 67 later, Bond pushed open the thick door of number 58 Doughty Street and peered into the darkness of the hall. "Hello?" he said softly. "Well, hello to you too, stranger." The door on his left had opened suddenly and there stood a meltingly beautiful moon-faced girl in a mint-skirt. "I'm Patsy Pushover, the sort of deputy editor. And you must be our new boss, Mr... I didn't catch the name when they phoned."

He paused, his mind momentarily blank. What the hell had M told him to call himself? "Johnson," he said heavily. "SHE squealed with amusement, her ripe bosom rippling beneath the mauve angora of her sweater. "Good, we're all Johnsons here. Are you Paul's son? Or Frank's brother? No, don't tell me, you're Boris's daddy. It's absolutely sure to know so much of the family. I'm afraid they're all out at the minute at late lunches and stuff, so there's only little me, and we're so desperately short of copy I was just about to write everything myself. But I'm sure your bag's totally bulging with wonderful material."

Bond's hand rested for a second on her arm and she shivered compulsively. "Let's fill up the bloody magazine first," he said tersely. "What do you fancy? Martin Borman on Oskar Lafontaine? Hillary Clinton's bedroom secrets? William Hague on Winston Churchill?"

She was rooting through the heap of articles he had emptied on to the green baize of her desk, still squeaking with excitement. "Ooo, Santa's masterplan to dominate the world. That sounds awfully Christmassy."

He sighed. "It's Santa, my dear. Frankly I found it rather tacky." "Oh, we've got tons of him already. We just store them up through the year and drop in a few names when we need them. I say, did Slobodan Milosevic really write this profile of Nicole Kidman?"

The gold carriage clock over the fireplace struck four. Bond's slender fingers drummed on the baize. "Why don't we just fill up with some old speeches by Conrad Black and take the rest of the night off? I've a bottle of Bollinger 84 on ice at my place. We could have our editorial conference in comfort. Who knows what surprising things might pop up?"

Her blues eyes looked mistily at him and her hand stroked the pink stripes of his

Turnbull and Asser shirt, the sharpness of her nails and passion snagging at the smoothness of the Sea Island cotton. "That's gorgeous," she said. "My dream of a Bosnian briefing."

It had been a night to remember, he thought, as the first grey light of dawn glimmered through the curtains of his Curzon Street apartment and lingered gently on the soft flesh of the girl who slept beside him and the black satin of his Harvey Nichols duvet. If this was journalism, who needed a licence to kill?

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A force for good police

Years later he would recall, "If I'd had Jim Callaghan on my own, I think we would have made a dramatic difference to the inquiry, but not with them present because they were feeding [the Civil Service] with nothing more than lies, which had been fed

It was nearly a week after the Times allegations appeared before Williamson was called, in and he told Callaghan it was already too late. On being asked why, he responded, "If they were going to do any damage they'll have done it. Papers and records will have been destroyed and the whole thing will be blown

resignation cost him dear, and he remained for some years bitter. But as a deeply religious man he nevertheless always believed in the basic good of the police force. "The relationship between police and the public should be based on the norm of day-to-day contacts. People still come to the police when they need

Parkinson's disease, which he fought with both courage and dignity. He was immensely proud of his daughter, Helen, who became a solicitor and was appointed a circuit judge. She survives him as does his wife and his two granddaughters Elizabeth and Katie.

Portrayed in the award-winning BBC series *Our Friends In*

Frank Edgar Williamson, police officer, born February 27, 1917; died December 25, 1998

SALE


Rybakov . . . pioneering litera

SALES

SALE

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

Putting the left on the map



Anne remained essentially a 1860s person, believing that the good of all was necessary and possible. The austerity and right-mindedness of being brought up by her Unitarian grandparents left its traces in her practical approach to the world

books made politics and economics accessible to a new audience. Anne was raised during the second world war by her Unitarian grandparents and the austerity and right-mindedness of that environment left its traces in her practical approach.

It was in 1993 that she set up Myriad with Judith Mackay. She brought out new editions

of established atlases on the environment, heat, women and the sea as well as expanding the list with new topical atlases. Most recently *The State Of The Future Atlas*.

Anne remained a 1960s person, believing that the good of all was necessary and possible. She chaired the trustees of the charity, the Dictionary of Social Change. Last May the cause for which she had held the case for 13 years reasserted itself. She fought back furmidaibly, retaining her keen interest in her friends and in all that was going on around her. Despite the physical strain she continued to work with her husband Bob, and Stephanie Donald, on their co-authored project, *The State Of China*.

Anne leaves Bob, her companion, colleague, friend and great love of 39 years. She is survived by her two sons, her sister, her brother, and by all the friends nurtured so generously by the warmth she and Bob provided. We shall never cease to miss her.

Nina Kildron

Anne Benewick, publisher and editor, born December 27, 1937; died December 8, 1998.

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Why I love the

BLACKMORE VALE. The six-arched bridge that leads across the Stour into Shurminster Newton was widened in the 11th century, no doubt to cope with an increase in traffic due to the growing success of the market which had operated in the town since 1332. A recent commentator describes "Stur" as "pretty but sleepy every day except Monday, when there is a huge cattle market and the streets are awash with lorries and farmers".

Now it is sleepy on Monday too. The 74-acre market site is a desolate slope of rough grass beside a half-hearted industrial estate since the town's owner decided to sell. There are two schemes

before the local authority. One is for a supermarket with associated car-park and a block of flats. The other is for an ecology centre, and is the idea of a group of 15 local people whose concern for planet and community is underpinned by hard-headed practicality.

Adjoining Station Road would be a meeting place and performance space. There would be shops and a pannier market, an ecology exhibition centre, new hall and library for the town, and demonstration areas for ecologically sound building and agricultural procedures would be shown (one manufacturer has already shown an interest). The ecology centre

itself, designed and built to exemplify the best energy-saving techniques, would offer both indoor and outdoor spaces for schools and universities, as well as builders and producers, could study and develop ideas. Sources of funding have been carefully examined throughout the development of the scheme and so has sustainability in terms of the centre's capacity to attract fees from users and bring renewed prosperity to the town.

An independent survey showed 77 per cent of the population favouring community use of the site and 60 per cent sympathetic with "green" arguments.

JOHN VALLINS

Sir Samuel Brittan, economic commentator, 65;
Bernard Cribbins, actor, 70;
Ann Demeulemeester, fashion designer, 33; **Marianne Faithfull**, singer, 33; **Andrew Foster**, controller, Audit Commission, for Local Authorities and the NHS, 54; **Sir Simon Hornby**, president, Royal Horticultural Society, 64; **Terry Lewis**, Labour MP, 63; **Mary Tyler Moore**, television executive and actress, 62; **Rosalind Preston**, former president, National Council of Women, 63; **Peter Robinson**, Democratic Unionist MP, 50; **Alan Rusbridger**, editor, the Guardian, 45; **Rt Rev Mark Foster**, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 62; **John Voight**, actor, 58.

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هذا من المصنف

The single currency

'People are more worried about the end of duty-free, they hate burgundy covers on their passports'
Ferry worker



Euroland must confront two challenges, unemployment and debt. The solution is policies geared to growth, says Larry Elliott

Birth of the euro

Biting at the heels of the top dog

WELCOME to the United States of Europe, in theory at least. After years of planning, 11 countries will from next week have one monetary policy, one interest rate and one exchange rate. Taxes and spending will still vary, but the nations of Euroland will stand or fall together.

Comparisons with America are not fanciful. Obviously, the US and Europe are both rich, developed regions with similar-sized populations, high per-capita gross domestic production and vast internal single markets. But the comparisons do not end there.

The European Union's share of world output is virtually the same as America's, around 20 per cent, and it takes the same slice of global export markets—about 15 per cent. Trade as a proportion of GDP is 8 per cent in the EU, as it is in the US.

At first sight, Euroland wants to rival the US as the world's pre-eminent economic superpower by reaping the benefits of economies of scale. Ten years ago, such an idea would have been untenable. In the late 1980s the US was in the economic doldrums, with its smokstack industries in decline and a general sense that the country was fighting a losing battle with the emerging nations of the Far East.

A decade on, the US has regained its position as top dog. Its companies lead the way in the sunrise industries of biotechnology and information technology, unemployment has fallen to below 5 per cent and the economy has enjoyed its longest post-war period of growth.

For Europe, the 1990s have been disappointing. Growth has been slower than in the US and unemployment higher. Productivity growth has been faster than in the US, largely because America's more flexible market has created many low-skilled, low-paid jobs.

The US has other advantages. For the last 50 years, the dollar has been unrivalled as the world's reserve currency. The fact that every nation has had to hold the greenback has meant that America has been



French connection... The road to Calais. Twenty million Britons pour through Calais every year. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GODWIN

Little England lives on at le hypermarché

Patrick Collinson in Calais finds scant enthusiasm among Channel hoppers and the boozecruisers

THE retired RAF pilot in his seventies says he speaks for his generation. "We got used to decriminalisation and the same's going to happen with the euro." Then he happily pops another item into his supermarket trolley in Citi Europe, the huge shopping centre next to the Eurotunnel entrance.

Twenty million British holidaymakers and boozecruisers pour through Calais every year and Euroceptic or not, they will have to start coming to terms with the euro very soon.

From January 1 shops across the 11 Euroland countries will begin displaying prices in euro and

their national currency, although the EU is not making it compulsory. Euro notes and coins will not come into circulation until January 2002, and until then shoppers will only be able to buy in euros on credit and debit cards.

Marks & Spencer, which has stores in nearly all the Euroland countries, will not begin marking up prices in euros until spring, and then only in a pilot scheme in the Netherlands. Not until a shopper takes goods to the till at a Euroland M&S will he or she see euro signs. The till will calculate prices in the local currency, but also in euros. The shop assistant will then accept payment by card in euros or local

currency, or by cash in local currency only. A few flagship British M&S stores will also have tills capable of showing prices in euros, largely for the benefit of foreign tourists.

In the hypermarkets of Calais, which include Tesco and Sainsbury wine and beer stores, many prices will be marked up in three currencies next year: francs, euros and sterling. But, in Calais last week, none of the major stores were showing prices in euros yet and British shoppers showed little interest in using or spending euros.

"I used to bomb this place," says Charles Carter, the retired RAF pilot, inside Tesco's Calais branch. "D'you know they used to launch the V1s from here?" He opted for Tesco's rather than the French-owned Carrefour next door because Tesco's lets him spend in sterling, and he can even use his ClubCard.

"Only thing is, they give you change in French francs. What use are they?" The next person through the checkout is Penny, in her mid-30s, who works for ferry company SeaFrance. Surely she would welcome the end of constantly having to change money?

"Well, I suppose it would make things easier, but I'm not bothered," she says. "On the ferries, people are more worried about the end of duty-free, they hate the burgundy covers on their passports and want things to remain British."

The Europhiles have even less to cheer over at Sainsbury's Vins et Spiritueux store where even Britons who work regularly on the Continent give the euro scant support. Alf Beddall worked for years at Opel in Germany, and now, semi-retired, part-time for a Peugeot dealer in Hertfordshire. He takes the 238 ferry to Calais every six

to eight weeks, buying his general food supplies as well as beer and wine and says, "I haven't had to change money for years. They take sterling quite happily here and that's not going to change just because of the euro."

'They take sterling quite happily here, and that's not going to change because of the euro'

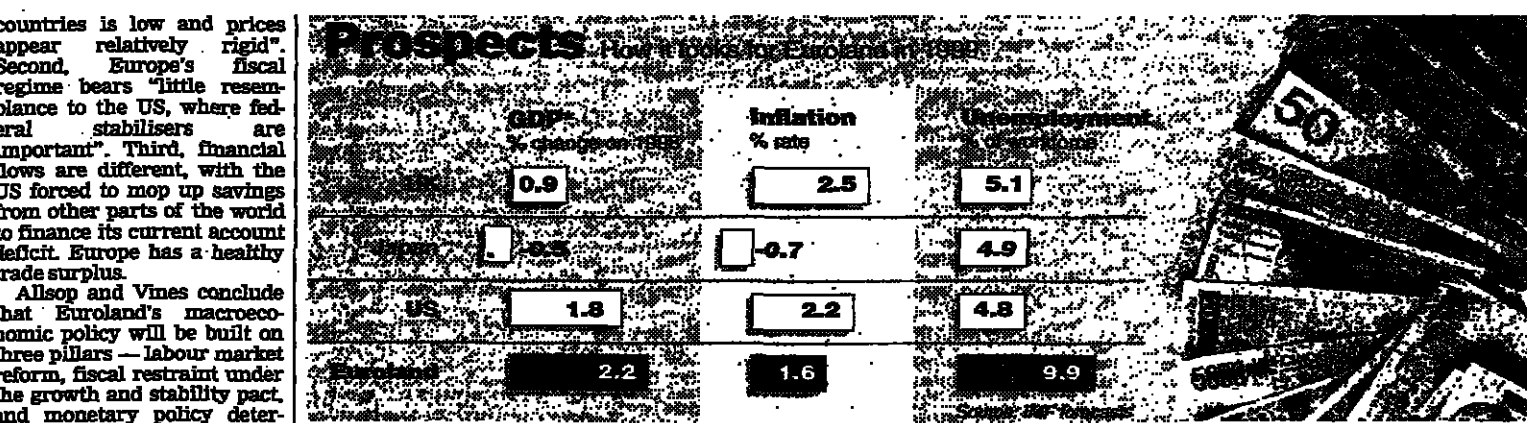
He doesn't believe prices will start equalising across Europe because of the euro, either. M&S admits that differentials on prices will remain across its European stores, because of national variations in wages, rents and taxes.

But one Calais beer-seller

has fully embraced the concept of a single currency - but it's sterling. At the EastEnders beer warehouse the car park is full of ageing and dirty British-registered Transit vans. Inside, a large alsatian patrols the spirits counter, while customers pile up boxes of Laverly Jubbly and Dog's Bollocks wine at £1.50 a bottle. What do EastEnders' customers have to say about the euro?

"If you are from The Guardian you can clear off. And you're not taking photos of nothing either," said one man loading a trailer with crates after crate of beer.

A day's search for a Euro-friendly Briton in Calais was not entirely fruitless. Outside Tesco, teachers Vince and Heather Ferry from Northampton say they are looking forward to the arrival of the euro. But Heather adds: "I have to admit, though, that half of the fun of being abroad is using foreign money."



countries is low and prices appear relatively rigid. Second, Europe's fiscal regime bears little resemblance to the US, where federal stabilisers are important. Third, financial flows are different, with the US forced to mop up savings from other parts of the world to finance its current account deficit. Europe has a healthy trade surplus.

Allison and Vines conclude that Euroland's macroeconomic policy will be built on three pillars - labour market reform, fiscal restraint under the growth and stability pact, and monetary policy determined by the central bank.

"For the framework to work coherently, a growth-oriented monetary policy is essential. That recovery and growth is needed to reduce unemployment and meet fiscal objectives is evident enough. It is also clear that if growth were to slow down and unemploy-

ment to rise, needed reforms would be hard to introduce, particularly if they were seen as likely to lead to more unemployment, and fiscal targets would not be met."

It is accepted that a lot depends on how the ECB performs. Central banks every-

where are grappling with a new environment in which the real threat is seen as deflation rather than inflation. For an institution born out of the inflationary 1980s and modelled on the Bundesbank, this is a particular challenge.

Professor Willem Buiter, a

member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, said in a lecture last month that he believed the euro would lead to greater prosperity and stability, yet still voiced strong doubts about the ECB's perceived lack of political legitimacy.

"The lack of openness, transparency and accountability written into the statutes of the ECB - could yet undermine the viability of the whole enterprise."

"Council members will be able to hide behind the cloak of confidentiality and avoid

having to justify yielding to local political pressures. The exercise of undue influence is not deterred by secrecy and confidentiality but by openness. Smoke-filled rooms and confidentiality are more likely to allow ECB independence to be perverted by national political pressures and the occasional short-term embarrassment of this or that."

Prof Buiter believes the decision-making council of the ECB may be unwieldy, and has pointed out that the bank lacks a lender of last resort function in times of crisis.

But the ECB's first task may be to stop the euro rising sharply on the foreign exchanges, leading to a choking off of growth and a rise in unemployment that would intensify doubts about its political legitimacy. Unless it cuts rates to compensate for the rising currency. Cheaper borrowing can do wonders for a bank's image.

Why I love the euro Robert Parker



Robert Parker is deputy chairman of the fund manager Credit Suisse Asset Management

FOR ALL the hype surrounding "conversion weekend", the impact of European Monetary Union has been long planned for by the asset management industry. In terms of fund allocation, we at Credit Suisse Asset Management have increasingly regarded EU countries as a single investment bloc.

Whereas once fund managers traded in country-weighted portfolios, the nationality of a particular EU equity is now becoming irrelevant. Rather than being viewed as a Dutch stock, for example, Royal Dutch/Shell is seen as a component of a European oil sector portfolio.

We may be just days away from EMU, but I feel this trend has yet to be fully understood by the investment market. The single currency will result in small and larger capitalisation companies dividing into two distinct investment classes. Large capitalisation companies such as Royal

Dutch/Shell becoming Euro "super-shares", traded on a pan-European basis. Those companies too small to be included in pan-European sectorisation will see their trading confined to a national stock exchange.

This will result in a major shake-up of portfolios. The impact will be magnified by the great disparity between industry sectors. In Spain, for example, just 11 per cent of the capitalisation of the stock market is represented by industrial stocks. In Germany the comparable figure is 45 per cent.

There are similar imbalances in sectors and markets right across the EU. This is a great challenge for the fund management industry at the dawn of the unified currency.

These investment changes will provoke structural changes among Europe's biggest companies. With this new class of pan-European "super shares" there will be

more of the mega-mergers we are seeing in oil, pharmaceuticals and financial sectors.

Industry consolidation will be matched by pressure for cost-cutting and greater efficiency. All of which will come as an uncomfortable shock to many of Europe's conglomerates, operating in protected domestic markets. Gone is the day when they can hide uncompetitive costs behind the ramparts of friendly cross share-holdings.

At the same time, equity volumes will expand in line with the demand for pensions and the development of the fund management industry, both wholesale and retail. Over the longer term, the European landscape will continue to evolve as the more advanced countries of Central Europe join the European Union.

Conversion weekend is just one milestone in the biggest reshuffle of capital in the entire history of the global financial markets.

Why I hate the euro Paul Sykes



Paul Sykes is a self-made millionaire who, early this year, founded the Democracy Movement

IN A few days time 11 participating nations of Europe lock their economies together, relinquish control of their interest and exchange rates to one central bank, and hand over their gold and currency reserves. This will mark the largest economic risk that has ever taken place, and also the biggest transfer of power and control in the history of these nations.

There is no trial run and no way out once you are in. The peoples of these nations will no longer be able to vote out of office those who are in charge of their economies, ie, the bankers in Frankfurt. The governments of these nations will no longer be able to implement their own tax and spend policies, voted for by their electorate.

Any nation finding itself suffering from inflation or deflation would have no mechanism left within its own control to deal with its problems. This project was

always planned to be a political project which ultimately saw political union as the answer to peace and prosperity throughout Europe. A single currency is merely the mechanism to draw us into a political union.

However, in Britain it is still difficult to find any front-line MPs or MEPs to admit that a Federal Europe is the ultimate destination of this project. The people of this country have not had a vote for more than 30 years regarding our relationship with Europe, and in that time the EEC has become the EU with huge powers transferred to unaccountable bureaucrats in Brussels.

You cannot pretend that democracy is alive and well when the people's elected representatives do not have the power to solve the nation's problems. Parliament can be overruled from Strasbourg without the will of the people who have no idea yet that

these powers have been transferred. They are almost totally unaware of how Europe works and what it means to their everyday lives and futures. What will happen when the ordinary family man is made redundant because of the wrong interest rate being set for this country by an anonymous official at the new Central Bank in Frankfurt? Where could he turn?

His MP or even the prime minister are barred from speaking to the Federal Bank, let alone having any influence over them. His only option would be to protest and my great fear is that protest would turn into riots because the Government would be powerless.

Whatever possessed the Members of Parliament to give away rights that were not theirs to give - the very sovereignty of the people whose interests they were elected to serve?

Australia v England, fourth Test

Mike Selvey in Melbourne sees a remarkable innings from Australia's master of resilience and a tailender's dogged determination leave England on the back foot again

Ravages of Waugh tilt the balance

Atherton pair fuels doubts over future

ENGLAND's efforts, sustained in commendable fashion over five compelling sessions of this Test, withered in soft sunlight yesterday afternoon. They were undone by a great batsman, abetted by one with as much pretence to batsmanship as Bruce Willis has to classical acting, and then by the early incursion Australia made into their second innings.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First Innings 270 (A J Stewart 107, M R Ramprakash 83, MacGill 4-81).
AUSTRALIA: First Innings (overnight: 59-21)
J Langer c Hussain b Gough 44
M E Waugh lbw b Fraser 122
D S Lehmann c Hogg b Gough 13
I A Healy c Headley b Fraser 12
D W Fleming c Hick b Mulhally 12
M J Nicholson b Gough 40
C G MacGill c Hogg b Mulhally 0
G D McGrath b Mulhally 0
Extras (14, 165, 10-11) 240

Total (98.3 overs) 270
Fall of wickets: 1st, 127, 151, 208, 235, 252, 260.
Bowling: Gough 26-7-65-6; Headley 26-3-65-0; Mulhally 21-3-64-3; Ramprakash 2-0-0-0; Fraser 22-0-78-2.

ENGLAND: Second Innings
M A Atherton b Fleming 0
A J Stewart not out 43
M R Ramprakash b MacGill 0
D W Headley not out 0
Extras (10, 2, 10, 10) 22

Total (for 2, 22 overs) 65
Fall of wickets: 1, 51.
To last: N Hussain, M R Ramprakash, G A Hick, 191 K Hogg, D Gough, A D Mulhally, A R C Fraser.
Bowling: McGrath 6-1-25-0; Fleming 6-2-12-1; Nicholson 4-1-11-0; MacGill 5-1-14-1; M E Waugh 1-0-0-0.
Umpires: D J Harper and S A Bucknor.

Australia reached 340 in their first innings, a lead of 70 and a position of strength that had a ring of familiarity about it. At test time, though, it had seemed highly unlikely. They had just lost their eighth wicket, the deficit was still 18, Darren Gough was cock-a-hoop at his first five-wicket haul of the series and a new ball was imminent.

It was Brisbane all over again because in that partnership, which swung the initiative so devastatingly from England to Australia, the destiny of this Test may have been decided.

Alec Stewart cracked out his runs again in the final 90 minutes of a day that lasted eight long hours, cutting and driving the new ball with the assurance of his first-innings century behind him and once lifting MacGill's leg-spin straight back over his head with contemptuous ease.

His unbeaten 43 helped England to finish the day only five runs behind but they lost Michael Atherton and Mark Butcher. Atherton was bowled by Damien Fleming for his second nought of the match, giving rise to the possibility that he may have played his last Test innings.

Butcher batted with the assurance of his Brisbane century until a moment of fluke brought about his downfall. He swept MacGill firmly towards midwicket where the ball lodged under the arm of Michael Slater, taking evasive action at short leg and he plucked it out in triumph. If ever there was a sign that this was MacGill's day and England's winter of discontent, this was it.

Such moments cannot be allowed to detract from the brilliance of Waugh's innings, however, one of his finest in a distinguished list that has now brought him more than 7,000 Test runs.

If Sachin Tendulkar — batting simultaneously in Wellington — can lay claim to being the finest and most stylish batsman of the times, then Waugh is surely its most resilient; here is a man who digs deepest into his soul when the battle is toughest.

But even by his standards this chancesome effort was remarkable. By the time Gough and Angus between them had removed all semblance of credible partners from the top order, he had made only 51. After Alan Mulhally had shown Fleming the door and, right on the stroke of tea, Gough had yanked Matthew Nicholson so hard that he was left face down on the deck, Waugh had advanced his score by only 16. Thus far it had been an innings combining patience and a limited but effective range of strokes.



Hit and miss... Steve Waugh, left, pulls no punches on the way to an unbeaten 122, his 17th Test century, while Michael Atherton, right, ducks out again



What followed was masterly and an education for those England batsmen who had suffered from the lack of fibre shown by their own lower order. Perhaps it stemmed from a player with sufficient centuries to his name for another not to make much difference to his status. But, quite simply, MacGill, a genuine tailender, was given his head.

Any of the first three deliveries with the new ball might have accounted for MacGill but there was no attempt to hide him, no chiding by Waugh if he played a false shot. Imagine the effect on MacGill's confidence.

He did not let Waugh down and the new ball was played around the ground with 36 runs coming off seven overs. Waugh played a series of strokes that ranged from the orthodox to the outrageous. Dean Headley was given the charge and smashed

shot, for the two that took him to his hundred. The volume of the applause that reverberated round this vast stadium was deafening and Waugh absorbed every decibel in the knowledge that he had played a special innings.

Not until Mulhally had MacGill caught at the wicket and then bowled Glenn McGrath two balls later did England, visibly stunned by the reversal, gain the sanctuary of the dressing-room. The partnership had been the equivalent of Jerry waiting round a corner to flatten Tom's face with a frying pan.

This was the shine taken from what had been a triumphant return of Gough to the embrace of Lady Luck. Fraser took the first wicket of the morning, that of Mark Waugh after an hour, but Gough's two wickets over night, when he bowled with genuine pace, were then followed by those of Justin Langer, caught in the gully for 44 after a tortured morning, and Darren Lehmann, who became Warren Hegg's first victim behind the stumps. Neither dismissal came from a distinguished delivery, so the omens were good. Nicholson was just a yorker waiting to happen — and happen it did. Gough's eventual figures of five for 96, including a clattering from a tailender, did him scant justice.

Hegg reaps his reward for keeping out of the limelight

Paul Allott on how England's latest recruit got his chance after years of loyal service

BEING unobtrusive on the field of play can be viewed as success or failure. It depends on circumstances and the nature of the role in the first place. Where one performer or official may be charged with taking too little part in a game, another may be commended for his unseen contribution.

The referee who lets the game flow is a typical example of the latter and wicketkeepers have the same opportunity. When there are not histrionics behind the stumps, when everything is neat and

when nothing is said, the effectiveness probably masks and reflects the effort.

Warren Hegg's second day in Test cricket was just such a day. There is no flamboyance to England's latest recruit, no windmilling of the arms à la Knott or Russell, just a solid journeyman's approach with constant encouragement to fielders and bowlers.

Hegg has waited a long time for his chance at the top level. He has played for Lancashire since 1986 when, as an 18-year-old, he became the youngest cen-

tury maker for the county in nearly 30 years.

Since his debut he has been a virtual ever-present in an increasingly successful era in Lancashire's history. He is a bright, cheerful character, always smiling, and is a joy to have around the dressing-room. Not so imaginatively christened "Chucky", Hegg has never been in danger of becoming hard-boiled.

He attracted the England selectors' attention as early as 1990, when he was picked for the A Tour to Pakistan, and again the next year to West Indies, only to have to withdraw because of glandular fever, and he has been on the fringe ever since. A fine domestic season in 1998, and

especially his improved form with the bat, secured him the second keeper's slot on every cricketers' dream tour.

The experienced and much more mature Hegg was determined to enjoy the experience. He realised, deep down, that he would play little cricket and, having an injury to Alex Stewart, there would be no chance of a Test cap. The ghost of Bob Taylor, for so long Alan Knott's understudy, must have haunted Hegg during this tour as he was resigned to the odd appearance in state games.

He was dispensable enough to be allowed home in November to be with his wife, Jo, at the birth of their first child. His mother

made the trip at Christmas to be with her son but never dreamed that the visit would coincide with his first Test cap.

The circumstances of his selection were bizarre. Hegg had no idea he would be playing until 20 minutes before the toss. The theory put forward by Stewart that, because Alex Tudor was injured, he decided to forfeit the gloves seems peculiar, but Hegg was not about to complain and is obviously more than glad of the chance.

Whether the decision to play Hegg was made purely on merit is now irrelevant. What it does show is that the England selectors on this tour have full confidence in their second-

choice wicketkeeper.

Thirty years ago, at the Queens Park Oval in Trinidad, Knott, a tryo with only two home Tests to his name, emerged to replace the incumbent Jim Parks and proceeded then to be England's premier keeper, if not the world's, for the next 13 years. Knott began with one catch and 69, by anybody's standards an unspectacular start.

Warren Hegg will never claim to be another Knott but he has an England cap to cherish as he enters his benefit year with Lancashire and, whenever England choose to call him in future, he will always be ready to take up the challenge in his own undemonstrative way.



Hegg... they also serve who only crouch and catch

South Africa v West Indies: third Test

Lara postpones the inevitable

Andy Capostagno in Durban sees a fine innings go to waste as West Indies crumble

FOR three hours and nine minutes a holiday crowd of 12,000 were subjected to a day of old-fashioned Test cricket at Kingsmead. Bowlers toiled under a hot sun on a pitch made flat by a northerly breeze; batsmen hit ball for four and dead-batted good ones. Then Brian Lara got out and West Indies' house of cards came tumbling down. Today, weather permitting, South Africa will wrap up the series with two matches to spare.

When bad light forced the players off in the final hour of the first day, West Indies were 246 for eight, a lead of 132. The second new ball is due after 13 deliveries this morning and there is every likelihood that Shaun Pollock, who has taken four for 74, and Allan Donald will bring the innings to a conclusion inside half an hour.

At tea yesterday such a thought would have seemed revolutionary. Lara was at

his serene best and Shivnarine Chanderpaul had fiddled the ball to third man, using his right nicely to the spin of Pat Symcox. It was as if the disasters of the first two Tests had happened to a different team.

Chanderpaul reached his half-century first, in 133 minutes and off 104 balls, but it was Lara who seemed the more impressive, racing to his 50 in 104 minutes off 74 balls. Between them they seemed to have steadied a ship rocking from the early dismissals of the openers Philo Wallace and Junior Murray.

Then Lara went for 79, after 139 balls and 15 fours. He lifted a flick into the onside and Herschelle Gibbs all but justified his inclusion with a gravity-defying catch that was worth a few hundred air miles. With the total still 201 Chanderpaul was caught and bowled by Pollock for 75. At tea it was 193 for two; at drinks 214 for seven.

At one stage five wickets fell for only 13 runs, a collapse which drew some attention away from Donald, who became the 20th player to take 250 Test wickets. He did so in his 50th Test, two more than Australia's Dennis Lillee but fewer than anyone else.

There was some controversy as several decisions failed to go West Indies' way. Carl Hooper may have been unlucky to be given out caught behind off Pollock for two when television replays suggested the ball had not carried to Mark Boucher. Franklyn Rose, after a breezy 23 off 27 balls, provided Gibbs with his fourth catch of the day one ball after the umpires had discussed the light. Two deliveries later the players came off.

Rose at least can hold his head high. He ended the South African first innings by bowling Donald for 13, giving him career-best figures of seven for 84. With Jonty Rhodes adding only two runs to his overnight 56, the tourists had done well to restrict South Africa to a lead of 114. Lara and Chanderpaul gave

them brief hopes of victory but appropriately in this seaside town, West Indies' batting proved to be built not upon rock but on sand.

Seven black players are among the 19 youngsters selected for South Africa's national Plascow Academy next year.

WEST INDIES: First Innings 198 (S C Lara 51, Kallis 3-81).
SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings (overnight: 224-0)
J N Rhodes c and b Walsh 67
A A Donald b Rose 13
D J Brindley not out 5
Extras (10-12, 14, 16, 17) 52
Total (for 8, 77.5 overs) 198
Fall of wickets: 1st, 41, 201, 201, 204, 213, 214, 245.
Bowling: Donald 18-4-66-2; Pollock 24-8-74-4; Tarrugga 13-4-28-1; Kallis 10-1-31-1; Symcox 12-3-4-0; Umpires: J Tiffin and D Orchard.

New Zealand v India: second Test

Tendulkar the all-rounder leads fight-back after record Kiwi stand

NEW ZEALAND, given a first-innings lead of 144 over India in the second Test, claimed three second-innings wickets for 112 before running into a vigorous counter-offensive in Wellington yesterday.

The Indian fight-back by Saurav Ganguly and Sachin Tendulkar left India at 179 for three at the end of the third day, 35 in front.

Tendulkar had earlier played a considerable role as a bowler. He broke the record eighth-wicket partnership of 137 between Dion Nash and Daniel Vettori which had lasted almost four hours. After bowling Vettori behind his legs he also got Paul Wiseman to play on.

The stand by Nash and Vettori beat by one run the previous record set in Port of Spain in 1971-72 by Bev Congdon and Bob Cunis.

Tendulkar was given a torrid time at the start of his innings by Craig McMillan, the medium pacer, who launched a series of short-pitched balls that resulted in him being no-balled by the West Indian umpire Eddie Nicholas for exceeding his ration.

Not until Mulhally had MacGill caught at the wicket and then bowled Glenn McGrath two balls later did England, visibly stunned by the reversal, gain the sanctuary of the dressing-room. The partnership had been the equivalent of Jerry waiting round a corner to flatten Tom's face with a frying pan.

Rugby Union

Bracken out for the count

THE England scrum-half Kyran Bracken will be out for three weeks after being concussed playing for Saracens against London Scottish on Sunday. A cracked cheekbone was feared but, though an X-ray has ruled that out, concussion carries an obligatory lay-off of three weeks.

Leicester's traditional post-Christmas fixture against the Barbarians, played in the spring for the last two seasons, returns today for the first time since 1995. The teams last met in March, when Leicester lost by a record margin of 73-19.

Basketball

NBA ready to cancel season

THE NBA season will almost certainly be cancelled following the breakdown yesterday of talks between the league and the players' union over a range of issues including salary capping.

"We advised the union that no further offers will be made," said the NBA commissioner David Stern, who previously set a deadline of January 7 for reaching an agreement. There are no plans for further discussions.

Stern and the Players' Association executive director Billy Hunter have now met twice since Stern set the cancellation date on Wednesday. There was no immediate response from the players, who have been locked out by the club owners since July 1.

The NBA made further adjustments to its last proposal, which was deemed "fair" by some players, including the Utah Jazz superstar forward Karl Malone, but not voted upon by the union membership.

Racing

Cavalier gives his new trainer an early return

Chris Hawkins

KENDAL CAVALIER proved the wisdom of the old saying about a "change being as good as a rest" when winning the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow yesterday, just a week after switching stables from Rod Millman to Nigel Hawke.

There is only 25 miles or so between Millman's yard at Cullompton in Devon and Hawke's small stable at Chard in Somerset but this will certainly do something to put the letter on the map.

For Millman, victory was no doubt hard to take and Hawke, who as a jockey won the Grand National on Seagram, admitted that he deserved little of the credit for this his first winner of the season. "The change of scene

seemed to do the trick," said Hawke. "I haven't done much with him except turn him out in a field, but he loved this ground and he could be a Grand National type if we get a wet spring."

Kendal Cavalier is owned by Michael Wingfield Digby, who commented: "The switch of stables is a sensitive subject, but I wanted a specialist jumping trainer."

"Rod Millman did very well with him and I'm grateful to him, but an owner surely has freedom of choice."

This horse and his family have all shown that they need to relax. I had a gut feeling a move could click, and thankfully it did."

Barry Fenton rode the perfect race on 14-1 chance Kendal Cavalier, who took up the running approaching the second last and stayed on strongly to make a mockery of the handicap — he was 13lb

out of the weights. Fiddling The Facts finished very fast to be beaten half a length and looked a shade unlucky.

The mare lost valuable momentum when getting in too close to the second last fence, but rallied gamely and in another 50 yards looked as if she would have got to win.

Forest Ivory plugged on to finish third in conditions which proved all too much for most of the runners.

Barry Summit, who normally revels in the heavy going, found himself anchored by top weight and was eventually pulled up, while Don Samourai struggled in the rear of the field and never looked like getting into the race.

Following the race Barry Summit was knocked out to 14-1 from 12-1 by Hill's to repeat his Grand National triumph. Teeton Mill, the impressive winner of the King George VI Chase on Saturday,

is the 8-1 favourite. Setting in The Facts finished very fast to be beaten half a length and looked a shade unlucky.

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Florida Pearl's fall makes it easy for Dorans Pride

DORANS PRIDE scored a bloodless victory in the Ersson Chase at Leopardstown yesterday after the favourite, Florida Pearl, fell when going ominously well at the third last, writes Chris Hawkins.

Richard Dunwoody asked Florida Pearl to stand off his fence but the inexperienced chaser put in an extra stride and paid the

penalty, leaving Dorans Pride to come home alone. Dunwoody said: "I was delighted with the way Florida Pearl was travelling and going to the third last I was quite happy that I had made the right choice in deciding to ride him instead of Dorans Pride."

Dorans Pride had earlier survived a bad blunder thanks to a brilliant piece

of riding by Paul Carberry. English challenger Sunny Bay gradually lost touch on the second circuit and had no chance when falling at the second last of the race.

Dorans Pride was trimmed to 10-1 from 12-1 by Hill's for the Cheltenham Gold Cup, while Florida Pearl remains a 9-2 chance behind 4-1 favourite Teeton Mill.

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Grand leap... Barry Fenton clears the final fence on his way to victory on Kendal Cavalier. PHOTO: JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

Haydock

RON COX	TOP FIRM
1.05 Grand Couloir	1.15 Adelphi Bay
1.35 Cheshire Chalk	1.45 Salicetta
2.05 Shire Rovers	2.15 Martha Kelly
2.35 Neerly An Eye	2.45 Marlene Kinness
3.05 Phoebe	3.15 Royal German
3.35 Teal Bay	3.45 Elwyn Prince

Taunton

RON COX	TOP FIRM
1.05 Grand Couloir	1.15 Adelphi Bay
1.35 Cheshire Chalk	1.45 Salicetta
2.05 Shire Rovers	2.15 Martha Kelly
2.35 Neerly An Eye	2.45 Marlene Kinness
3.05 Phoebe	3.15 Royal German
3.35 Teal Bay	3.45 Elwyn Prince

Musselburgh

RON COX	TOP FIRM
1.05 Grand Couloir	1.15 Adelphi Bay
1.35 Cheshire Chalk	1.45 Salicetta
2.05 Shire Rovers	2.15 Martha Kelly
2.35 Neerly An Eye	2.45 Marlene Kinness
3.05 Phoebe	3.15 Royal German
3.35 Teal Bay	3.45 Elwyn Prince

Lingfield (A.W.)

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1.35 Cheshire Chalk	1.45 Salicetta
2.05 Shire Rovers	2.15 Martha Kelly
2.35 Neerly An Eye	2.45 Marlene Kinness
3.05 Phoebe	3.15 Royal German
3.35 Teal Bay	3.45 Elwyn Prince

1.05 NOVICE HURDLE

31-212	Beard (19) (M)	Twicken	Dundee	5-11-0
3-2	Clear Stables (19)	W. Graham	5-11-0	
3-2	Beard (274)	J. Turner	4-11-0	
3-2	Grand General	(19)	H. Dally	4-11-0
000-5	Marching (26)	W. Jones	6-11-4	
56-226	Southampton (188)	W. Jones	5-11-0	
71	1911 Grand Hotel	(19)	J. T. Lee	5-11-0
0	4 North After Thyme	(23)	L. Long	5-11-0
1-4	Temps (225)	Mr. A. S.		

Football

Premiership: Aston Villa 2 Sheffield Wednesday 1

Ehiogu revives flagging Villa

Paul Weaver sees a late header help restore a three-point gap at the top

ASTON VILLA are beginning to resemble one of those puffed-up 1500 metres pace-setters who look desperately and vainly over the shoulder for someone else to take up the running.

They had taken just eight points from their previous seven matches but despite their slow-down needed just one point from yesterday's match to return to the top of the Premiership. At least until tonight.

In the event a late header from Ugo Ehiogu gave them all three but their performance was hardly the stuff of champions. They struggled to impose themselves against a 10-man Sheffield Wednesday side whose thoughtful movement and clever passing belied their modest position.

The Villa manager John Gregory admitted: "It wasn't a great game but that's the Premiership for you. In a season, in 38 games, I reckon you will get eight very good performances. Then you will have 10 or 15 which are pretty ordinary and the rest will be howlers."

This one belonged to the middle group. But we did win it and when Julian Joachim hit the post a short time before the winner I had this feeling that it wasn't going to be our day. But we keep going, we keep showing our character and we keep grinding out the results. I was delighted with the winner because Ugo has been complaining about the service he's been getting recently."

While there is a suspicion that Villa may need a little more than this if they are to keep pace with the more exotic talents of Chelsea and Manchester United they have, in Paul Merson, a man who could lead their season a fresh impetus from mid-January. He has been missed.

Wednesday, who have a happy habit of playing well against the leading sides, shaped their side along Vil-

la's lines, by playing three at the back with five in midfield. They matched the home side with some ease, and for some time after Dejan Stefanovic was shown the red card, in the 20th minute, for his second foul. Both were against the awkward, muscular Joachim.

Wednesday's manager Danny Wilson was less than pleased with the decision. "It was a scandalous, diabolical decision. I think the referee will feel embarrassed when he sees it again. The second foul was bookable but the first... no way."

Gregory agreed that Stefanovic had been hard done by but, strangely, thought that the second yellow card had been the more harsh decision. By then the score was 1-1. Villa took the lead in the seventh minute when Gareth Southgate volleyed home following the free-kick. A minute later Wednesday had levelled. Benito Carbone, returning to the side after a Christmas break in his native Italy — he was suspended on Boxing Day — took advantage of a ponderous Villa defence to score with an overhead kick.

Carbone might have put Wednesday ahead in the 42nd minute when his delightful chip from Petter Rudi's pass sent the ball rolling across the roof of the net.

In the second half Villa's superior manpower slowly took its toll on Wednesday. In the 59th minute Ehiogu appeared to head a perfectly good goal from Hendrie's corner and then Stan Collymore, who had replaced Ricardo Scimeca, produced a marvellous, dipping shot from 25 yards which Pavel Srnicek did well to tip over.

The most dramatic effort of all came from Joachim in the 62nd minute, a 30-yard drive which clattered against the top of the right post. Three minutes later Ehiogu headed Villa's winner from six yards following Alan Wright's corner.

Aston Villa (3-5-2): Oakes; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry, Wilson, Taylor (Draper), Hendrie, Scimeca (Collymore, 59), Wright, Joachim, Dublin.

Sheffield Wednesday (3-5-2): Srnicek; Thomas, Walker, Hinchcliffe, Albiston, Stefanovic, Jonk, Alexander (Gibson, 68), Rudi (Hamphrey, 68), Carbone, Booth.

Referee: G. Barber (Surrey).



Lift-off... Gareth Southgate (left) is congratulated by Dion Dublin after his rare goal for Villa. PHOTOGRAPH: IAN HODGSON

Charlton Athletic 0 Arsenal 1

Arsenal back on track with good luck and bad

Martin Thorpe at The Valley sees Vieira harshly ejected but Charlton still grumbling

ATHIRD win on the trot lifted Arsenal to third place in the Premiership table yesterday, reinforcing the feeling that they are resuming normal service. The sight of Dennis Bergkamp limping off and Patrick Vieira being sent off confirmed it. A tetchy, controversial, stalemate of a game ended with struggling Charlton's seventh successive defeat thanks to a dubious penalty decision given by the less than impressive referee Craig Rennie, who adjudged that Mark Kinsella's foul on Ray Parlour on 54 minutes occurred in the area.

Marc Overmars scored from the spot, a goal which

came four minutes after Arsenal had seemingly been put on the back foot by Vieira's third red card this season and the 18th notched up by Arsène Wenger's side since the French coach took over 24 years ago.

The trouble-prone French midfielder, who just before Christmas was fined £20,000 for gesturing to the crowd at Hillsborough and warned about his future conduct, was rather harshly dismissed for an elbowing incident and will now be suspended for three games.

Arsenal will also once again have to make do without Bergkamp for about three weeks after he hobbled off

with groin and ankle injuries following a vicious tackle from behind by Eddie Youds which should have earned the Charlton defender a red card. Rennie showed him only yellow.

Arsenal's recent return to form is largely due to the fact that Wenger has had Bergkamp back to his best after a long bout of injury. With Nicolas Anelka already out for two weeks with ankle problems, Arsenal once again find themselves short of striking power and in danger of suffering another stutter in results as they fight to retain the title.

What can one say about Charlton? A measure of their decline is the fact that when they played at Highbury at the end of August they were top of the Premiership. Now they find themselves third

from bottom and staring relegation full in the face.

There is no lack of fight and commitment among the red shirts — in fact yesterday they were perhaps too physical. But they simply lack the guile and goalscoring edge to convert passion into points.

Arsenal's first visit to The Valley since 1966 had begun promisingly, with Luis Boa Morte, playing as a lone striker in the absence of Anelka, hitting the bar after 35 seconds, then Neil Redfern repeating the feat at the other end four minutes later.

But then the first half settled into a pattern, with Charlton defending stoutly as Arsenal's patient build-ups offered the greater threat. Sasa Ilic twice saved acrobatically from Bergkamp.

On the half-hour the Arsenal left-back Nigel Win-

terburn limped off with a hamstring injury that will keep him out for about three weeks, and just before the break Bergkamp followed him.

Within five minutes of the restart there was further controversy as Vieira tried to break down the right with Redfern hanging on to his arm.

The referee seemed to play advantage rather than blow for the foul and that proved fatal for Vieira, who, in trying to wrestle himself free of Redfern's continued grip, hit out with his elbow and was sent off. "Psychologically he is destroyed," said Wenger afterwards.

A penalty incident soon followed but after that it was 10-man Arsenal's turn to survive via stout defence. Alex Manninger, hitherto suffer-

ing a shaky afternoon, saved well from Kinsella and with his legs from Shaun Newton. John Robinson also went close but the equaliser would not come.

Having 10 members of their first-team squad out injured does not help Charlton's cause. Neither, yesterday, did starting with only one fit striker, Steve Jones. But excuses soon need to be replaced by victories, or relegation will inevitably follow.

As for Arsenal, more controversy, another win and now a further examination of the debatable depth of their squad.

Charlton Athletic (4-4-1-1): Ric Mills, John, Pulus, Powell, Newton, Kinsella, K. Jones (Lennie, 68min), Robinson (Redfern, 67min), 69, 70, 71.

Arsenal (4-4-1-1): Ric Mills, John, Pulus, Powell, Newton, Kinsella, K. Jones (Lennie, 68min), Robinson (Redfern, 67min), 69, 70, 71.

Leicester City 1 Blackburn Rovers 1

Kidd keeps Rovers on the up and up

Trevor Haylett

ADAY in which none of their fellow strugglers had been successful in improving their position near the foot of the Premiership ended with Blackburn Rovers adding weight to the belief that they are best equipped to leave relegation concerns behind.

They went ahead last night through a smart piece of opportunism from Kevin Gallacher and, although Leicester quickly found an equaliser, Blackburn, a couple of scores apart, remained fairly comfortable and composed as they extended their unbeaten run under Brian Kidd to five games.

When Blackburn came to Filbert Street for a Worthington Cup-tie at the start of the month their performance betrayed little of the uncertainty afflicting the club both on and off the field. At that time they had still to appoint a new manager, had lost five of their previous six fixtures and were considerably ill-favoured to bow out of the competition through a late goal.

Last night it was a Leicester who sought take control and examine a central defence missing the strength and leadership of Stephane Henchoz with a diet of high, bending centres dispatched from the left by Steve Guppy. Early on a further adjustment was required when Christian Daily was carried off, the youngster Marlon Broomes coming in in his place.

It was a strange start to the evening and the second time a stretcher had been deployed inside the first 20 minutes with Rob Savage coming off worse in the first heavy challenge of the game.

Guppy's propensity for finding a Leicester head with those cunning, inswinging deliveries argued well for the home side. Savage, Henchoz and Cottee all failed to take advantage of the winger's accuracy. Then from his corner Frank Sinclair unleashed a hard, fast volley which drew the best out of John Phelan.

For Leicester Kasey Keller was forced to push away Jason Wilson's free-kick. The goalkeeper looked to have no chance when Keith Gillespie found maximum power inside the area. Steve Walsh putting himself bravely in the way.

Matt Elliott's failure to bring a high ball under control saw Rovers take a 56th-minute lead. Under Kidd quick to nick the ball off his toes and also to spot that Keller had advanced off his line. He neatly lofted the ball into the net. Yet before the interval Leicester had levelled when a right-wing striker Guppy planted the ball into a crowded goalmouth and Steve Walsh headed home.

It was Leicester who had the better chances after half-time, succeeding now in a last night a number of passes together.

Neil Lennon chanced his arm from outside the area and saw his deflected shot rebound off the woodwork. A clearer opportunity fell to Cottee following Rob Uthair's resistance. Unable to get his initial shot in, he then attempted a piece of improvisation while prone, only to see the ball blocked.

Leicester (4-4-2): Keller; Sinclair, Elliot, Walsh, Dismore, Savage, Gillespie, Kinsella, Lennon, Izzi, Guppy, Cottee, Henchoz.

Blackburn (4-4-2): Ryan, Kenna, Piesock, Rob Savage, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Referee: A. Wills (Cheshire-46-Street).

Schmeichel still Ferguson's No. 1

ALEX FERGUSON has scotched rumours that his goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel is about to be replaced in the Manchester United team.

The Dane, who will leave English football at the end of the season, retains his place in tonight's vital Premiership encounter at Chelsea despite his uncharacteristically frail form.

Speculation has been rife that United are in the market for a top-class goalkeeper to maintain their search for honours on domestic and European fronts in 1999.

But an angry United manager said: "It is nonsense to suggest that I'm looking to replace Peter now. Have I signed anyone? There is your answer."

Meanwhile the Dutch defender Jaap Stam, who is ruled out of the Stamford Bridge game with an ankle injury, is not about to be rushed back.

"Jaap has been playing on his bad ankle all the time in big games like Barcelona and Tottenham,"

said Ferguson, "and now it is important to get him sorted out and give him a break. With his World Cup experience this could be the right moment."

"David Beckham is suspended for our Cup game against Middlesbrough on Saturday so after Chelsea there is the chance to tell him to rest for a few days. We have also rested Paul Scholes intermittently and we gave Gary Neville a holiday when he needed it."

The United manager's preoccupation with his players' welfare has extended to him calling for a January break.

He said: "Next season you could play 17 games in the European Cup if you get to the final plus international matches. You don't realise what we're asking players."

"We expect the British qualities like doggedness, endurance and grit to come to the fore and we're trying to develop skilful European players too. Now as football managers all we can focus on is preparation and recovery."

Sport in brief

Sailing

Mike Golding in Team Group 4 will be hard-pressed to meet his target of reaching Auckland before the end of the year, writes Bob Fisher. The overall race leader of the Around Alone had 685 miles to go yesterday morning, having closed to within 137 miles of the leg's leader, Giovanni Soldini in Puma Team Group 4 was the fastest in the fleet and Golding has drawn further away from Marc Thiercelin with Somewhere, who is now 186 miles astern.

Motorcycling

The former world champion Ricardo Tormo has died of leukaemia in Valencia aged 46. Tormo won the 500cc world title in 1978 and 1981.

American Football

Vinny Testaverde threw four touchdown passes as the New York Jets beat the New England Patriots 31-10 for a club-record 12th win. The Arizona Cardinals moved into the play-offs for the first time since the 1982 season by beating the San Diego Chargers 16-13. They play the NFC East champions Dallas Cowboys in the wild-card round on Saturday.

Boxing

Birmingham's Anthony Maynard is to challenge the defending champion Billy Scherer of Luton for the European lightweight title at York Hall on January 16.

Results

Football

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Aston Villa (1) 2
Sheff Wed 1

Charlton (0) 0
Arsenal 1

Sheff Wed (1) 2
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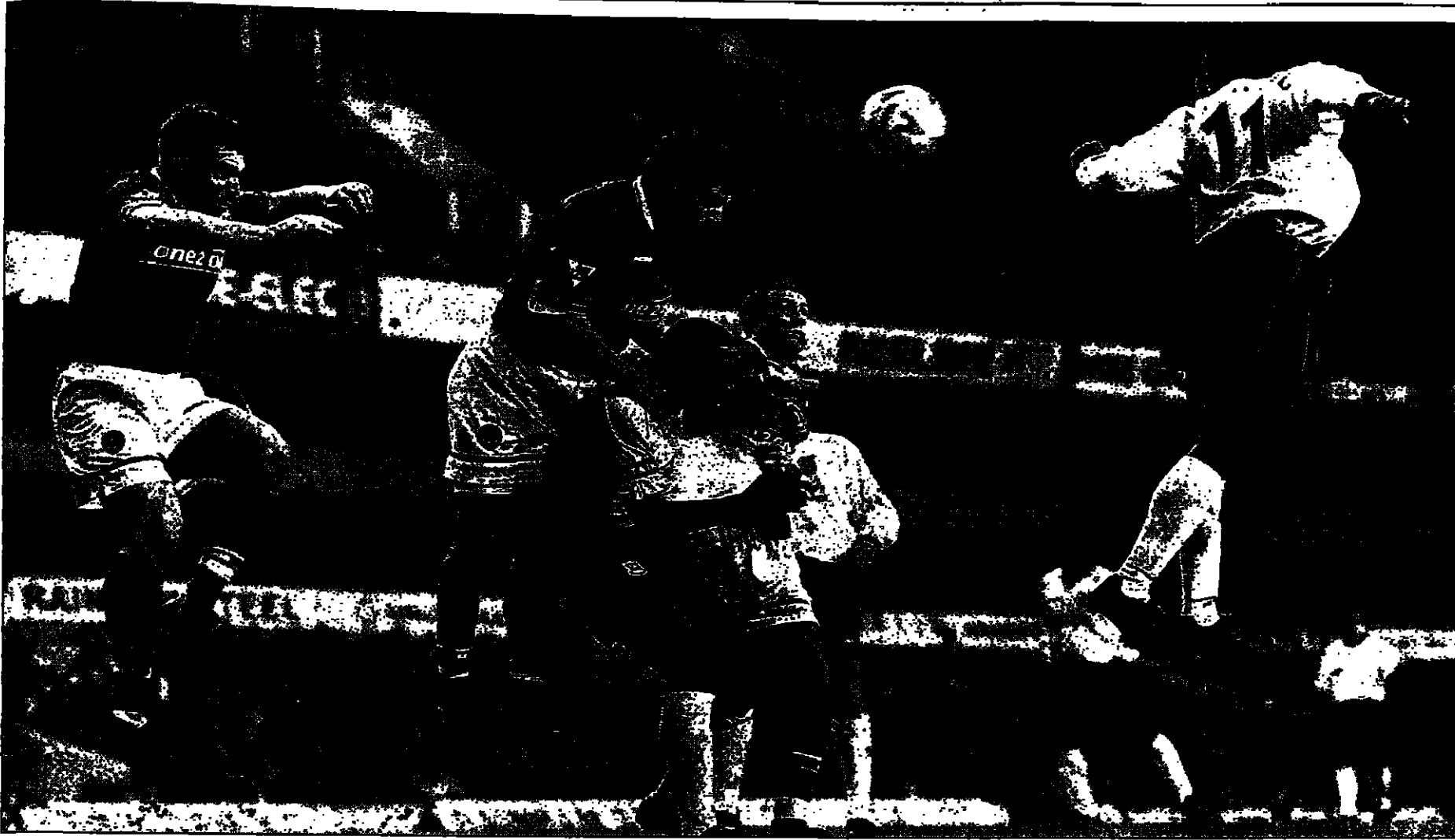
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Airborne invasion... Slaven Bilic, centre, heads clear as Chris Armstrong, who scored a hat-trick for Spurs, practises rising to the occasion

PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JEWINS

Premiership: Tottenham Hotspur 4 Everton 1

Armstrong's treble completes double

David Lacey

THE revival of Tottenham Hotspur under George Graham is not yet a renaissance. For the moment, however, White Hart Lane will surely be happy to settle for the mixture of hard work and opportunism which saw Everton roundly beaten yesterday after Chris Armstrong had scored a hat-trick in the second half.

Victories at Goodison Park marked the beginning and end of Christian Gross's moribund nine months as Spurs

manager but Tottenham's first home win over Everton since August, 1994, confirmed the new resilience and strength of character the team have acquired with Graham in charge.

Everton are hardly the most spectacular performers in the Premiership but they can be awkward opponents and for the best part of an hour yesterday Tottenham had difficulty extricating themselves from the fine mesh of passing and movement which Walter Smith's side spread across the midfield.

With Duncan Ferguson gone to Newcastle, Everton are no longer inclined to play the ball forward long and high. While this makes their football more interesting to watch it has done little to improve their scoring potential

and yesterday they paid heavily for missing chances during their most dominant period.

Everton came to White Hart Lane beaten once in six Premiership matches but still gave the impression of a side for whom a goal was a rare treat. The turning point of the game came nine minutes into the second half when Nick Barnes, starting his first game in three months, saw a shot driven through a crowd smartly saved by Ian Walker. After that Everton unravelled like an old jumper.

Initially Tottenham looked to the close control of David Ginola on the left to give them some relief from the maddening crowd. But the Frenchman found it hard to make headway against Everton's determined covering and, as the tackles came in, the referee

Graham Poll was unwilling to buy tickets for the Comedy Franchise.

The threat of a scoreless stalemate grew as Darren Anderson and Allan Nielsen consistently ran into Olivier Dacourt and John Collins and vice-versa. With four Tottenham defenders marking one Everton attacker, Ibrahim Bakayoko, while Barnes and Don Hutchison lent the Ivory Coast striker only intermittent support, it was hard to see where and when a goal would arrive.

Nevertheless one did arrive in the 24th minute, instigated by Russ Fox's persistence in reaching the ball near the left-hand byline before it could go out of play. Fox laid the ball back to Ginola and from his centre Armstrong rose at the far post to head for goal, only to see the ball rebound off

David Unsworth's back. But as it dropped, Les Ferdinand flicked a neatly improvised shot past Thomas Myhre with the outside of his right foot.

Surprisingly Everton needed only seven minutes to draw level. Having broken up one movement, Tottenham's defenders were caught out of position by the swiftness with which Hutchison played the ball back into the penalty area and Bakayoko slipped through a large gap to nod it past Walker.

Three minutes later Bakayoko turned an ankle and hobbled off, to be replaced immediately by Danny Cadamarteri. Then Bakayoko, having lost his limp, re-emerged demanding to be allowed back on. The Everton bench sent him to the dressing-room as firmly as any referee.

Three minutes past the hour Armstrong restored Tottenham's lead after Anderson's precisely judged job had caught the Everton defence square.

Myhre was so convinced that Armstrong had controlled the ball with a hand before scoring that he stood still appealing as the striker went past him, but the goal stood and the others broke the argument. Fifteen minutes from the end Ferdinand's backheel sent Armstrong in for his second and another pass from Anderson enabled him to complete his first hat-trick for Spurs with a rebounding shot.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-2-2): Walker; Carr, Young, Campbell, Sinton; Fox, Anderson, Nielsen (Clemens, 4-1); Ginola; Ferdinand, Armstrong (Wright, 5-1), Dacourt (4-2); Myhre, Short, Dacourt, Bili, Unsworth, Dunn, Collins (Carr, 7-1), Cadamarteri, Barnes, Bakayoko (Cadamarteri, 23).
Referee: G. Poll (Preston).

Derby County 2 Middlesbrough 1

Sturridge makes most of his Derby days

Adam Sills

IF DEAN Sturridge is to remember Derby well his last few days in the Midlands. Emotional turmoil at transfer speculation had led the home-grown talent to declare himself unable to play in Saturday's match at Everton. A record attendance at Pride Park yesterday was delighted to have him back for only Derby's third win in 14 games.

Yet with a move to Leicester on the cards and Sheffield Wednesday and Nottingham Forest also interested, Sturridge's pride of place at the Park could be short-lived.

Steve McLaren the Derby coach said afterwards: "We have had a chat with him and when strikers are not scoring goals they are unhappy creatures. This was a very big test for him and he handled it very well. Who knows if he is still here next week."

Sturridge scored one and set up the winner for Jonathan Hunt on as a substitute for just two minutes after Mikkel Beck looked to have sealed a point for

Boro. With Paul Gascoigne dwelling too long on the ball, Stefano Eranio stole in to feed Wanchopu who in turn supplied Sturridge. The striker lifted the ball over the advancing Mark Schwarzer for his sixth goal of the season.

It was no more than Derby deserved with Lars Bohinen twice going close, yet the game looked like turning Boro's way after Wanchopu's dismissal.

Andy Townsend seemed to lunge two-footed at the grounded Costa Rican before grabbing his shirt. In an effort to break loose

Wanchopu swung his fist and arm before all and sundry piled in. To the annoyance of the home fans Wanchopu saw red while the Boro skipper only got booked.

Try as they might without Gascoigne, removed with a bemused Phil Stamp just minutes before the sending off, Boro lacked the creativity to punish a packed County defence. Indeed, Lee Carsley could have put Derby into something of a comfort zone immediately after the interval. His cross-shot though scraped the post.

Boro huffed and puffed but rarely threatened Mart Poom's goal until Dean Gordon finally found his range to place a cross on Beck's head. But it all proved academic and Boro will hope that six points dropped over the Christmas weekend will not lead to a more permanent slip in form.

Derby County (3-4-2): Poom; Prior, Carlsberg, Elliot, Lauren, Carlsley, Eranio (Odu, 7-1), Bohinen (Pitt, 23), Powell, Sharridge (Wright, 20), Wanchopu (4-2-2); Schwarzer; Cooper, Vickers, Fiala; Stockdale (Haddon, 10), Sturridge (Beck, 41), Gascoigne (Fleming, 41) Townsend, 22.
Referee: P. H. H. (Preston).

With Watford playing at Norwich today, Birmingham moved up to third place with a 4-2 win at Bury. The Blues are three points behind Ipswich and 11 behind the leaders Sunderland, with Bradford a point further back after seeing off Tranmere 2-0 at Valley Parade.

Bolton are up to fifth having made hard work of a 2-0 win at Port Vale. The visiting keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen had to wait until the 16th minute for his first touch but still the breakthrough did not come until the 48th minute, via Scott Sellars. Victory was finally confirmed 15 minutes from time when Dean Holdsworth scored from the spot.

At the bottom Bristol City gained a welcome three points with a 3-1 victory over Swindon at Ashton Gate — only their second win since their director of coaching Benny Lansbury took charge. The transfer-listed Steve Torpey, making his second start of the season, scored twice with Ade Akinbiyi contributing a spectacular solo effort.

● Barcelona's Nou Camp stadium, the venue for the European Cup final on May 26, has been accused of being unsafe for major sporting events. According to a letter sent by five leading Spanish architects to the club: "Structural elements show an advanced state of aluminosis, weakening them by 30 to 40 per cent."

First Division: Sunderland 2 Crewe Alexandra 0

Sorensen saves face

Michael Walker watches the runaway leaders fail to impress a record crowd

NEEDED a victory and a convincing performance to rescue his reputation raised by his defeat at Tranmere Rovers on Boxing Day, Sunderland just about delivered on the former yesterday.

However, the Wearside side fell well short of the latter and were reliant on the goalkeeping of Thomas Sorensen and the woodwork to beat the team who are currently at the bottom of the division, 38 points adrift of the leaders.

On this evidence that is a mighty false gap although the one of most concern to Sunderland is the eight points that separates them from Ipswich this morning after the East Angles' loss at Wolves.

If Crewe had had the fortune in front of goal for their second-half display warranted, however, then Sunderland's lead and Crewe's plight would not be quite so emphasised. Peter Reid, a realist, recognised as much, saying: "The keeper's made two outstanding saves and that's won us the game. In the second half we couldn't get out, but with the wingers unfit the shape isn't right at the moment and we're having to dig in."

The digging in has brought seven clean sheets in eight games, an impressive record, but the absence of the flankers until the shape isn't right at the moment and we're having to dig in.

long-term injury that has sidelined Kevin Phillips, is beginning to show when Sunderland go forward.

Having said that, the opening goal was the result of intricate, patient midfield passing with Lee Clark and Alex Rae the hub. After numerous passes the ball finally reached Michael Gray on the left wing; his centre was flicked on by Daniele Dichi, returned to him by Neil Quinn and finished confidently by Dichi.

After only 15 minutes and 11 seconds, it was the



Christmas cheer... Danny Dichi celebrates his goal

required response after Tranmere. Yet it turned out to be the highlight of Sunderland's afternoon. Five minutes later, after Rodney Jack had already squandered one promising opening for Crewe, Sorensen made a brave save at the feet of Mark Rivers and shortly afterwards Jack hit the side netting.

The home side left the field to boot at half time and the tangible crowd anxiety increased when Seth Johnson and Phil Charnock began to run the game for the visitors. Consequently Jack came to greater prominence and was unlucky when, having beaten three Sunderland defenders, his cross narrowly eluded Rivers sliding in at the far post. That was in the 55th minute and two minutes later Martin Scott headed on to one of his own posts with Sorensen beaten.

At that Reid sent on Michael Bridges for Quinn and after another fine Sorensen save from Jack, Bridges eventually ended the contest 12 minutes from time when he ran on to Chris Makin's long through ball and slid a shot underneath Jason Kearton.

Sunderland had their triumph but the biggest-ever crowd at the Stadium of Light — 41,433 — departed with plenty to ponder.

Sunderland (4-2-2): Kearton; Sinton, Unsworth, Foster, Smith, Wright (15), Reid, 27, Charnock (Lunt, 55), Johnson, Rivers; Lyle (Steele, 55), Jack. **Referee:** A. Wiley (Sheffs).

Portsmouth 2 Oxford United 2

Ball haunted by Banger's double

Pete Nichols

THE appointment of Portsmouth's new chairman, Les Parris, last week persuaded home supporters to abandon a threatened boycott. After 45 minutes, however, there were a few rueful sighs yesterday.

With Portsmouth trailing by a goal and with negligible action worth paying for, the fans could only believe they had taken the wrong option.

With the combined debts of the two clubs approaching £20 million and losses at both running into five figures a week, one might have expected the players to treat the occasion as a shop window for their talents.

However, this philosophy evidently did not strike home. It was a case of fear against fear from two teams rooted at the bottom of the First Division and the midfield was simply overrun with players looking for space.

The breakthrough came two minutes before half-time when Nicky Banger put the visitors ahead. Banger, who had been discarded by Alan Ball at Southampton, came back to haunt the manager who off-loaded him for £200,000 to Oldham in 1994. Banger's first shot was parried but the return was joyously struck into the roof of the net.

The gloom was lightened

for the Portsmouth faithful two minutes into the second half. Steve Claridge had fought a lonely battle for the first 45 minutes but now he had allies. The bulky striker looked back as he would abandon anything much smaller than a railway turntable but it was he who met Sammy Igoe's cross to score and put Portsmouth level.

The action was now as unremitting in this half as it had been absent in the first. Banger threatened to embarrass his old boss further but it was Portsmouth who went ahead when Oxford's Les Robinson was adjudged to have fouled Svein Annundsen in the area. Claridge side-footed the penalty home before Banger pulled the scores level, once again pouncing after his first shot was blocked.

With 15 minutes to go, Oxford's Joey Bastamp was booked for a crude tackle on the Portsmouth captain Russell Parrett. This fired Portsmouth's imagination and the last 10 minutes saw a continued barrage on the Oxford goal. It was to no effect, though. This was one of those days where neither side was destined to win.

Portsmouth (4-5-1): Patterson; Thompson, (Anderson, 4-2), Thompson, Parson, Robinson; Miller (Prestick, 4-1), Igoe, Vickers, Simpson, Parris; Claridge. **Oxford United (4-1-4):** Gerrard; Powell, Watson, Warren, Pacey (Wheatman, 77), Robinson; Banger (Thompson, 75), Murphy, Beuchamp, Wright (Smith, 4-2), Windass. **Referee:** E. Lomas (Manchester).

West Ham United 2 Coventry City 0

Happy Harry's Hammers duo dynamic at last

Russell Thomas

IAN WRIGHT and John Hartson emerged from their striking stupor of winter, greatly assisted by a Coventry team who are sleep walking towards relegation. West Ham's co-strikers each assisted the other to goals but it must be said, both arrived on a generous platter.

Harry Redknapp, growing impatient with his front pair, was warned by the response. But for Gordon Strachan, now supervising a Coventry side who have gone seven games without victory, it was a chilling end to 1998.

Like John Aloisi, preferred by Darren Huckerby at the start, Coventry were ultimately reduced to a supporting act. The Australian newcomer made little impact but was seldom offered the service to demonstrate that, at £250,000, he can become an effective replacement for the £7.5 million Dion Dublin.

Coventry's afternoon was best summarised by the miss of the match as West Ham's defence for the first time was put under concerted pressure after the interval. A rare mistake by Ian Pearce let in Aloisi, whose poor control served only to set up his co-striker Noel Whelan.

A straightforward shot of moderate power would have sufficed, yet Whelan stabbed against the spreadeagled Shaka Hislop, the ball rebounding behind him where a falling Rio Ferdinand somehow scrambled the ball into his goalkeeper's clutches amid flailing legs and arms.

Ham's two successful shots were stark. Hartson, exploiting over-elaborate Coventry passing out of defence, delivered a low cross from the right that Ryan Birkbeck missed but Wright seized upon it. It was the 35-year-old striker's first goal in two months.

That breakthrough came as early as the seventh minute and, despite both strikers' obvious growing confidence, it took an hour before West Ham's second goal arrived. The move again developed down the right, but this time Wright crossed low and Hartson, alone at the far post, struck only his fourth goal of the season.

By now Huckerby had replaced Aloisi, to Coventry fans' displeasure, which increased when Paul Telfer was introduced for Marc Edworthy. Also cue the jeering for McAllister, who could not be faulted for effort, even if he could for many optimistic long passes.

Afterwards Strachan's year-end message to the supporters was simple: "Stick with us, we'll be all right." He seemed to try to reassure his eyes from some of his team's obvious defects, particularly their few efforts on goal. Instead he preferred to concentrate on their commitment saying: "You can't ask anybody to try harder. We've hit the ropes again, but we'll bounce back, don't you worry about that."

West Ham United (3-5-2): Nelson; Pearce, Ferdinand, Dicks, Shacter, Lomas, Langford, Birkbeck (Fitts, 60min), Lazaridis; Hartson, Wright. **Coventry City (4-4-2):** Ogrzewiec; Nelson, Shaw, Brown, Telfer, Treble, McAllister, Solari, McAllister, Probert, Whelan, Aloisi (Parris, 45min). **Referee:** D. Durkin (Preston, Dorset).

Nottingham Forest 1 Southampton 1

Bassett stuck in no-win situation

Daniel Taylor

NOTTINGHAM FOREST set a record they will want to forget at the City Ground yesterday. The draw Southampton earned from this basement battle meant that Forest, who struck the woodwork and had three shots cleared off the line, became the first Premiership team to go 17 consecutive matches without a league victory.

There was, in fact, little here to suggest that either team possess sufficient quality to claw their way out of danger, and Forest's latest disappointment prompted an after-match demonstration by around 80 supporters outside the main stand, during which the first strains of dissent against their manager Dave Bassett were aired.

"When you are down at the bottom it is always going to happen because the fans are frustrated," said Bassett. "It's frustrating for everyone but no one is more disappointed than myself and the players."

For such a crucial encounter the first half was strangely passionless and the referee Mike Reed, renowned for his use of yellow cards, made only one booking.

However, things started to liven up just before the break. Dougie Freedman struck an upright with a scuffed left-

foot shot, and at the other end Forest were indebted to their former Saints keeper Dave Bassett for two outstanding saves in quick succession from James Beattie and the impressive Hassan Kachoul.

Southampton finally swept into the lead three minutes into the second half. From a corner the ball found its way to Matthew Oakley and his left-wing cross was headed home by the unmarked Kachoul.

Forest fans broke into a chorus of "What a load of rubbish," but their side were level inside seven minutes. Neil Shipperley, deputising for the suspended Pierre van Hooijdonk, sent Freedman scampering into the area. The striker's charge was abruptly halted by Paul Jones's mistimed dive and Steve Chettle hammered the penalty into the roof of the net.

Now Forest were in the ascendant and in the 70th minute Jon Olav Hjelde's powerful header was cleared off the line by Saints' French defender Patrick Colleter, who was lucky to be on the pitch after throwing punches during an ugly confrontation in front of the home dugout.

Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Bassett; Bonalair, Chettle, Hjelde, Rogers, Stone, Johnson, Gammitt, Bart-Williams; Shipperley, Freedman (Hewson, 70min). **Southampton (4-4-2):** Jones; Hiley, Monkton, Lundelov, Colleter; David, Palmer, Kachoul, Oakley, Chettle. **Referee:** M. Reed (Birmingham).

This year give something worthwhile at Christmas



This year the Guardian is inviting readers to spend a little extra at Christmas and make a donation to The Guardian Christmas Appeal, the proceeds from which will be distributed among the selected charities. For more information on these charities and their work, please see the regular features running in the paper throughout December. You can give to any of the charities individually or make a general donation to the appeal, simply by calling the number below with a credit or debit card.

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WaterAid works to provide clean drinking water, sanitation and to promote public hygiene among the 1.4 billion people world wide who do not have clean drinking water.

Family Service Units offers counselling and support at grass-roots level to families in Britain's most deprived inner cities.

The Soil Association has been championing organic farming since 1945, and studying the impact of modern agriculture on animals, humans and the environment.

The Appeal is also supporting the five winning charities from the Guardian Jervood Award, which rewards excellence in small charities from all over Britain: Deafblind UK, Habitat for Humanity (Belfast), Jessie's Fund, Free Form Arts Trust, Walsall Careers Centre.

Calls charged at national rates. Lines open until midnight on 24/12. Unfortunately we cannot accept Swiss payments.

England made to suffer in the field, page 12

West Indies sent tumbling, page 12

Cavalier chases home at Chepstow, page 13

Villa charge back to the top, page 14

SportsGuardian

Newcastle crash again



Red hot... Karlheinz Riedle hits Liverpool's fourth goal with Shay Given and Stuart Pearce powerless to intervene

Premiership: Liverpool 4 Newcastle United 2

Owen turns the tide for Reds

Ian Whittell sees another goal-packed thriller capture the revival spirit at Anfield

SEXY football met the club that put the X into Xmas Party as this fixture continued to live up to its reputation for high entertainment. It may have fallen a goal short of the 4-3 scoreline produced twice in the past three seasons by these teams at Anfield but this was an incident-packed, breathtaking match.

Ultimately, with the high jinx of their much publicised Christmas party behind them, Liverpool rallied from 2-0 down to score four times in 18 minutes, with Karlheinz Riedle and Michael Owen sharing the goals.

With 18 seconds gone David James produced a fine save to deny Duncan Ferguson and Liverpool's manager Gérard Houllier later pointed out that "it could have been a very different match if that had gone in".

Newcastle will correctly claim that the harsh dismissal of Dietmar Hamann in the 30th minute was the pivotal moment of the game. The German was booked twice in 10 minutes, first for a clumsy trip that forced Steve McManaman to limp off and then after bringing down Patrik Berger.

Rund Gullit was so incensed he refused to discuss

the incident and Newcastle's main complaint surrounded the fact that Jamie Redknapp had escaped sanction for an equally bad challenge on Gary Speed moments earlier. Redknapp's foul did not go completely unpunished, though, because Liverpool failed to clear Steve Glass's free-kick and the Peruvian Nol Solano sent a venomous shot into the roof of the net from the edge of the area.

The sending-off inevitably forced Newcastle to defend doggedly, with Alan Shearer

dropping deep into a midfield role. When the substitute Andreas Andersson put United 2-0 in front, capitalising on a comical mix-up between Phil Babb and Steve Staunton to round James seven minutes into the second half, it appeared hard work would be rewarded, especially with their keeper Shay Given performing heroically.

"He was outstanding," said Houllier. "But I knew if we scored once they would be a bit shaky. When we made it 2-2 I said 'we are going to win this game'. I felt we were like waves rolling relentlessly forward."

It was an accurate assessment but Houllier still had to sweat. Three times within 60 seconds Given denied Owen, David Thompson and Berger but moments later he was powerless to prevent Owen starting the home side's goal rush. Jamie Carragher shot powerfully from outside the area and Owen, demonstrating lightning reflexes, diverted the ball into the net. Five minutes later Vegard Heggem, enjoying a stunning afternoon on the right, sent over a cross which Aaron Hughes failed to clear and Riedle forced the ball home after his first attempt had been blocked by Given.

It took eight more minutes for Owen to put Liverpool ahead and kill off Newcastle's increasingly exhausted resistance. Redknapp's long-range shot was deflected by Owen's chest and, although Given did well to push the ball on to the post, the striker converted the rebound.

Owen's double took his tally for the season to 15, five of them against Gullit who started his reign at St James' Park with a 4-1 defeat by Liverpool. Riedle added the fourth when, from Stig Bjornebye's well-timed pass, he rounded Given.

There was still a chance in injury-time for Newcastle's substitute George Georgiadis to make the result conform to recent tradition but his shot was well held by James.

Rund Gullit, who tried to take Ronald de Boer on loan early in the season, may be on the verge of signing the Dutch international from Ajax. "I hope to announce something very soon but it is now down to a medical," said Gullit.

Liverpool (5-3-2): James; Heggem, Carragher, Staunton, Babb (McAlister, 60min); Bjornebye, McManaman (Bernard, 24), Thompson, Nd, Berger, Redknapp; Owen, Riedle.

Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given; Charvet, Hughes, Howey, Pearce; Solano (Gibbins, 74), Hamann, Speed, Glass (Georgiadis, 60), Ferguson, Shearer (Andersson, 40), Shearer.

Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley).

Golden arm and the last fixture show



Jim White

NEXT year will be of some vintage if there are many sports quotes to top this one, which will be uttered on our screens this Saturday, when 1999 is but two days old. Spoken by a sporting agent, it comes at the end of a documentary about Cuban baseball, which is to be shown as part of BBC2's Havana Night. The man is talking about Orlando Hernandez, who pitched Cuba to the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in 1996, then defected after a voyage aboard a ramshackle raft of such peril it makes a trip on Virgin trains look a model of comfort and punctuality.

Unlike many a Cuban refugee seeking a new life in the United States, Hernandez had little trouble securing a visa, thanks mainly to the feeding frenzy of Major League clubs gawping for his signature from the moment his raft pitched up in Costa Rica.

Eventually the New York Yankees won the race for his golden arm, signing him up for the not insignificant contract of \$18million over four years. Marvelling at his client's change in fortunes, the agent remarks thus:

"He was on \$9 a month to play the game in Cuba. Imagine: at that rate of pay, to earn what he will earn in four years for the Yankees, he would have had to work for 60,000 years. What a great country this is." There, summarised in one neat paragraph, is all that we need to know about American sport as the current millennium stutters to its conclusion: money is how everything is measured, money is what is really important, money is what matters.

Not that it is any different here in Britain. And nowhere is this more evident than on the football pitch as the season enters its second half.

In Portsmouth yesterday two teams sorely devoid of this central sporting commodity met. This was the sort of game in which the referee had to hand over the coin after he had tossed for kick-off, so it could be popped in the meter to ensure the floodlights came on in the second half.

It was a game about debt, about flogging off the family silver, about the grim realities

of poverty. No one could have been in any doubt, taking in the depleted team sheets of two sides recently denuded of their best players, sold off to service voracious debts, that unless someone with cash arrived shortly both clubs would be going into outer darkness. Or worse, the Second Division.

Tonight, in the swanky environs of Stamford Bridge, the contrast could not be greater. In the shadow of the club's new fish restaurant, where the average spend per customer is budgeted at £50, Chelsea will take on Manchester United, two operations with a combined income higher than several Latin American countries.

By no coincidence at all these two clubs are at the pinnacle of the game right now and, as at Fratton Park, the talk in the stands will be all about money. Which expensive import will Chelsea bring in to replace the injured Gustavo Poyet, for instance. Or how much will Alex Ferguson have to pay for Rio Ferdinand to shore up his wobbling defence? Or can anyone believe the price a burger costs here?

No doubt there will even be an airing for the latest footballing finance conspiracy theory which has it that Ferguson is under instructions from the United money men to sacrifice the Premiership in favour of the greater fiscal rewards of winning the Champions League.

WHAT this last fixture list of 1998 proves is that the concentrating of wealth at the top end of football, one of the central features of the game in the nineties, shows little sign of abating as the decade reaches its conclusion. Just a few crumbs from the league's table would sustain those who, whether through mismanagement, misjudgment or plain misfortune, find themselves teetering on the lip of extinction. This one night's gate receipts alone would pay Oxford's wage bill almost until the season's end.

Such hope of abatement in this era of winner-plus runner-up and from next year third place too takes all is naive in the extreme, almost as naive as suggesting that America's most successful sporting franchise would do its sport more long-term good nurturing Cuban baseball rather than simple strip-mining it of its talent. Even so, it is not hard to feel that the sight of some of the country's most illustrious clubs (and Oxford) going west as the game's fastest grow ever plumper impoverishes us all.

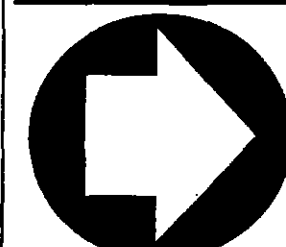
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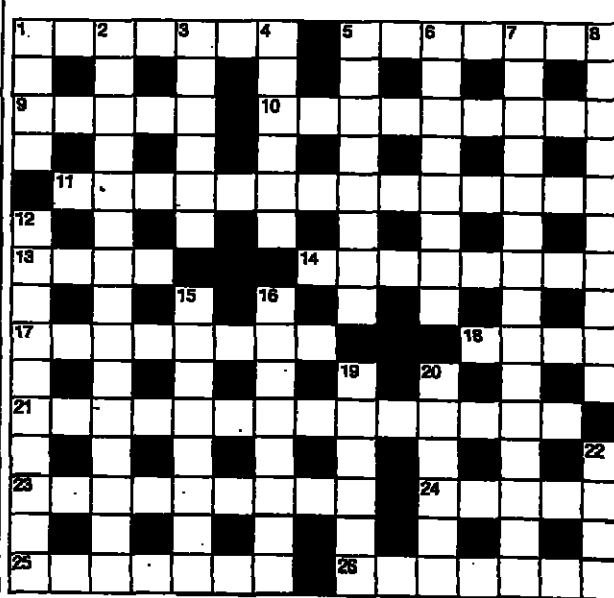


When will footballers learn that consuming sufficient lager to lose all inhibitions is incompatible with being a top class athlete? When will they learn that with a media greedy for stories about the indiscretions of the most minor footballing celebrities, they ought to be more careful when video cameras are around? Men behaving badly

G2 p2

Guardian Crossword No 21,468

Set by Janus



Across

- 1 Musical chest (7)
- 5 Calling noisily on shellfish worker (7)
- 9 Collect a large amount (5)
- 10 Was her toy fit for main purposes? (9)
- 11 Train with Caledonian pilot? (8,6)
- 13 Stakes in American technology (4)
- 14 Toast drunk to jazz era from balloon (8)
- 17 Permitting no one to be in credit? (8)
- 18 A barrier to an architect (4)
- 21 Extra poem no use without preparation (14)
- 23 Birth rise attributed to UK native (9)
- 24 Tree's introduction of Roman figure in "Lear" production (5)

- 25 Queen receiving an egg sandwich from undertaker (7)
- 26 Rare metal found in two animals (7)

Down

- 1 Note from one's pad perhaps (4,5,5)
- 2 Sweet girl's expensive trifle (4,5,5)
- 3 Girl that is wanting a dog (5)
- 4 Singer forced to give up (5)
- 5 Can I upset singer without involving more risk? (5)
- 6 Modern choice for family augmentation (5)
- 7 Tried to back horse or commit crime (9,8)
- 8 Difficult period at the Aszizes (6,4)
- 12 Fit to cope and docile (10)
- 15 Overwhelming deviation involving a politician (8)

Across
1 MUSICAL CHEST (7)
5 CALLING NOISILY ON SHELLFISH WORKER (7)
9 COLLECT A LARGE AMOUNT (5)
10 WAS HER TOY FIT FOR MAIN PURPOSES? (9)
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23 BIRTH RISE ATTRIBUTED TO UK NATIVE (9)
24 TREE'S INTRODUCTION OF ROMAN FIGURE IN "LEAR" PRODUCTION (5)

- 16 The rayon business not on main agenda? (3,5)
- 18 Pub brawl leading to the grave (5)
- 20 Remember giving ring back (5)
- 22 Neat square border (4)

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Television and radio

The weather in Europe



Liverpool's Jamie

The "bionic" apparently isn't enough to make a footballer's party swing these days. If you really want to get to grips with the game, you don't forget the little device that will be built into every uniform in Accor-frame detail: the video camera. What a laugh you can have as you run through the taps at a later date, watching the club's resident comedian doing his Andy Gryn impressions over the slow-mo highlights. What a laugh - unless, that is, reporters from the News of the World get their tiny fingers on it before you can pop it in the machine on the team coach.

That was the fate that befell players from Liverpool for this weekend. When they opened their favourite Sunday newspaper, instead of being expressed in the Alan Shearer column (the lad did beat last, and you can't ask more than that?) they were confronted with pictures of their own Christmas party. The video stills - with captions such as "Scene of last night's party" and "The boys and girls" - gave them and us a frenzy - featured action of such dizzy reso-

Maybe. But what was so depressing about the News of the World coped was not that it presented us with some new low plucked by our national leading sportsman. Rather, this was the same old story, leading to the same old question: when will they ever learn? When will footballers paid dividends of £250,000 a week learn that they have some public responsibility that they will learn that, consuming a significant large to lose all inhibitions is incompatible with being a top-class athlete? And, most particularly, when will they learn that, with a media greedy for stories about the indiscretions of the most minor footballing celebrities, they ought to be a bit more careful when video cameras are around?

On 1988's evidence, they have not yet started out on the learning curve. This was a year rich in footballers behaving badly. There was England captain Alan Shearer having a mutual disagreement with a team-mate outside a Dublin pub, there was Teddy Sheringham partying the dawn away in a Portuguese night-club when he should have been in World Cup spirit, and there was big, brave Stan-

up to it in public, it makes you wonder what they do in private. Well, in 1998, thanks to their participation for the campaign, we learnt that Mark The Aston Villa goalkeeper took a £12 million man, fitted with a Bionics and the clown Dwight Dork, another in action with four hospitalisable guys. Interestingly, the tape found its way into the hands of a tabloid newspaper. For those engaged in attempting to satirise the game, 1998 was a bad year. Compared to these allegedly Romans, Darren Thode is a bastion of sobriety.

In a sense it was ever thus. British football has long been a ritualised drinking as the premise way of relaxing away from the fray. More than that, a good night out has been key. The sweet method of team-building, the bar thought to be the place where the camaraderie vital to team unity is best forged. Within the

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The rider provided by those who have turned rates of drink and luncheonary into a come turn (quintessential exponent George Best) is that matter how much the all-star players of the past put away, they were performed on the park. Not exactly true in the case of Mickey Vernon, the Welsh winger who recently revealed he used to play while drunk. This will have come as a surprise to those who saw him

player allegedly featured, was doing more than discussing tactics with the partially-clad girl apparently rubbing shaving foam into his penis area.

been in a bar when the footballers walk in will know the frisson that runs round the place: they are our Hollywood

Indeed, the capacity of former players for drink has been post-mortemised as evidence of character.

to prove it. In the past five years, as football has confirmed its position as the number one leisure pursuit of the fashionable, the thirst for information about its practitioners has become insatiable. Many a player has grown richer than Croesus the attendant merchandise explosion. But the downside of the information boom is a desire for gossip,



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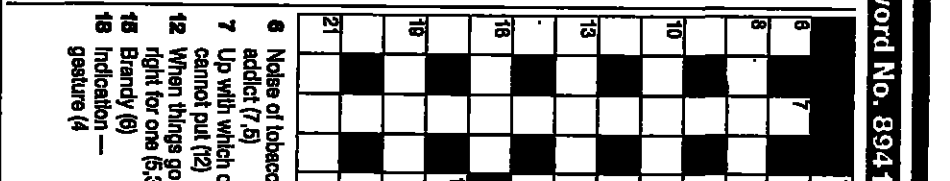
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Across

- Yellow flower (6)
- Small with famous bridges (6)
- Causes continual trouble to (7)
- They get ripped (6)
- Carer of food etc (4)
- Improvement by making changes (6)
- Hit affectionately (4)
- Stopper - tree (4)
- It keeps one in place (6)
- From 9g, Panga or Asial (7)
- Submerge feebly (20)
- Unsure or call for puntal (3,5,9)

Down

- Reactions on one's view (6)
- Pill (6)
- Whipped (4)
- Caravan of the West (7,9)
- The gift of (6)
- Prediction (green) (6,7)
- Notes of tobacco added (7,9)
- Up with which one cannot put (12)
- When things go right for one (6,9)
- Bumpy (6)
- Indication - gesture (4)



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The victor's lead when she enters and all the furniture was upset.



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هكذا من الراحين

When is an adventure just a dangerous folly?

Thursday December 29 1998 The Guardian

1000 years

To mark the end of the second millennium, the Guardian website is conducting a worldwide hour of 1,000 years of world history. Here are this week's highlights.



This woman was sentenced to 13 years for an arson attack on a housing estate. It was, almost certainly, a crime she did not commit. Yvonne Roberts on why Crown prosecutors put a lifestyle in the dock

A burnt out case

Day 1261: 1260-1261
Alexander III of Scotland, aged 10, married Margaret, the 11-year-old daughter of Henry III. At the wedding banquet in York, the English hosts tried to trick the boy-king into paying homage to Henry but the lad was too smart, telling the king that he had come to York to marry, not "answer about so difficult a matter".

Day 1271: 1262-1263
Roger Bacon resided at Oxford. Bacon used references to inform the history of geography. He is also credited with the invention of gunpowder.

Day 1281: 1284-1285
After an 11-year-old boy was found murdered in Lincoln, an anti-Semitic mob blamed Jews and had 19 executed. The church proclaimed the boy a martyr - Hugh, the Little Saint. Ironically, the other St Hugh of Lincoln, a 12th-century bishop, had been a staunch opponent of anti-Semitism.

Day 1281: 1286-1287
The king's brother Richard, Earl of Cornwall, was crowned King of the Romans - ostensibly the next Holy Roman Emperor. In reality, with no land in Germany, Richard's new title was little more than a name.

Day 1281: 1288-1289
The Franks of Oshon, second only in importance to the Magyars, established regular parliamentary affairs, and ensured that the king could rule by within alone.

Day 1281: 1290-1291
The Mongol empire was about to reach its zenith. Kublai Khan (pictured), Genghis's grandson, was determined to conquer the last remnants of the Chinese empire ruled by the Song dynasty. Unlike his barbarian forbears, Kublai tried to persuade the Song to surrender peacefully.

Day 1281: 1292-1293
Louis IX of France abdicated in a dispute between King Henry III of England and his mother, Queen Isabella. He repudiated the 1293 provisions of Oxford and returned to the papal curia, where he remained until his death in 1328.

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Health

A gene for motherliness, transplanted hands, Viagra — 1998 has had its share of medical surprises. So what's on the horizon for 1999? **Roger Dobson** reports from the frontiers of health science

Welcome advances

Could Newman be about to unveil his revolutionary new phobia? His therapy for those who are afraid of wide open spaces is startling because his patients will not have to leave their own homes to start treatment. No doctor's appointments or hospital visits, it will come to them — on the Internet.

When Dr Newman of New York University reveals details of his plans in the new year, it will be the first time a medical treatment has been available straight from the Internet. The therapy accessed entirely through the computer screen, shows sufferers how best to deal with their problem, "tells them finally leads them, through virtual exposure, into the real outdoors."

Doctor-patient care will be done by exchanging e-mails — at least until the patients are happy to head out into the fray.

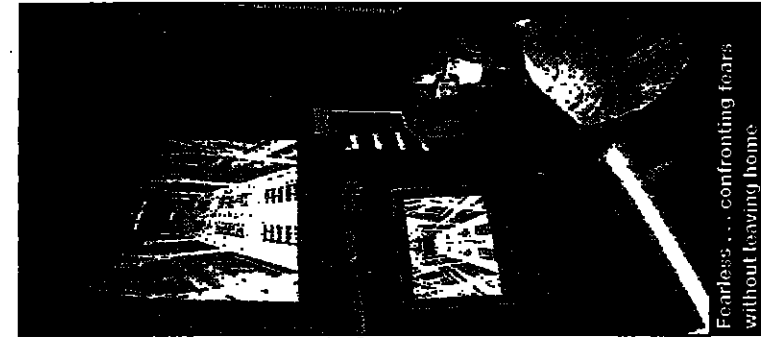
The next 12 months will see enormous advances in such use of telecommunications for the delivery of health care.

Two projects in Britain are already trialling the use of tele-

phone lines to get the results of X-rays to rural GP practices, and the first "tele-social" care projects, where community care patients are monitored in their homes electronically, are expected to get off the ground within the next few months.

Virtual reality treatments for a number of conditions, including anorexia, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, in which patients are immersed in a virtual environment and exposed to images of the elements they are afraid of or which shock them, are also on the way.

Contra "Briders" is finalising details of the first project to use virtual reality for treating eating disorders. In traditional therapy, patients with anorexia or bulimia are exposed to emaciated images of themselves either in the form of pictures or videos in an attempt to get them to eat. In the "Briders" virtual reality therapy, the patient puts a helmet on and enters a virtual world that is already inhabited by their own life-size, moving image. Under this virtual world they will be able to walk alongside or behind themselves and get a much more detached and accurate image of what they really look like. This, researchers hope, will help sufferers cut through the self-delusion that is so much a part of the condition.



Frantic... confronting fears without leaving home

get worn on the wrist will use a small amount of electricity to pull the glucose through the skin — without piercing it — and onto a pad where the level is constantly measured. This will allow people with diabetes to more easily maintain the tight blood-sugar control that has been shown to ward off complications such as circulatory and sight problems.



Watch this space... a device for testing blood sugar levels

Diary of an alcoholic

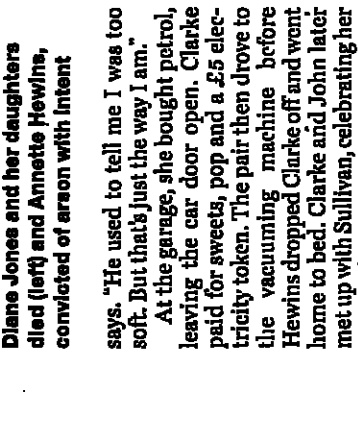
Molly Innes

One night I was calling, re-tested the joys of passing out for a drunk this week. Three times I have been chased by shopkeepers anxious that I shouldn't arrive home without my newly purchased products. I have resuscitated some drinking days' habits, like bumping into doorposts, dropping car keys and setting forth without headlights. I have dialled numbers and for-

Also in development is a new ultrasound test for Down's syndrome, which may reduce the need for amniocentesis — a procedure that involves piercing the womb to draw off fluid from within the placenta.

The technique — called nuchal translucency — is based on the discovery by Dr Kypros Nicolaides of King's College Hospital that the increase in the thickness of membranes in the back of the neck, by using ultrasound scanning to measure the thickness of this roll of flesh, the test appears to be able to pick up the syndrome as early as 10 weeks into the pregnancy, rather than the present, worryingly late 18-week deadline for amniocentesis. In preliminary studies, the new test picked up 90 per cent of Down's babies at 10 weeks. Results on a group of 1,000 women are expected by the end of 1998.

In Birmingham, doctors at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital are pioneering a new kind of radiotherapy for brain cancer that uses chemistry developed for nuclear reactors. The treatment, which they aim to be the first in the world to offer, involves injecting boron into the bloodstream of the patient. This is absorbed mainly by cancerous tissue. When neutrons are then fired at the tumour, they react with the boron, causing a microscopic nuclear reaction in the cells, which



Burnt out... the house where Diane Jones and her daughters died (left) and Anne Hewins, convicted of arson with intent

says. "He used to tell me I was too soft. But that's just the way I am."

At the garage, she bought petrol, leaving the car door open. Clarke paid for sweets, pop and a £5 electricity token. The pair then drove to the vacuuming machine before Hewins dropped Clarke off and went home to bed. Clarke and John later met up with Sullivan, celebrating her release from prison that day with drink and drugs, visiting friends until the early hours — normal routine on the Gurnea. "Perhaps they shouldn't have been wandering around all night, but partying doesn't mean that you have to spend years in prison," Hewins says here.

She was questioned by police first after the fire then again in February 1996. She and Clarke had said they visited one garage, a video check showed them at another. Snow's mother in the run-up to Christmas with two small children — displays remarkably similar symptoms. And the remedy I know for sure moves the car to the vacuum cleaner area — out of the video camera's range — unless to decant petrol? Anne explained that she was confused, she often gave her niece a lift in both garages. They went to Snow's

When is an adventure just a dangerous folly?

Branson's balloons, the Sydney to Hobart ocean race... are they simply disasters waiting to happen? Should others be put in peril to save those who take risks for fun, asks **Stephen Moss**

Youngsters were surely foolish to allow it to go ahead: it was so predictable that more than half the fleet would be unable to finish, the Sydney to Hobart race. Death, injury and destruction stalked the "fil-fleet" event; the footage of tiny specks adrift on mountainous seas was terrifying; one of those reported to have died was a British Olympic sailor.

Next month's appeal will say that expert witnesses instructed by both prosecution and the defence agree that Hewins's body-language at the pump makes apportioning "virtual verdict" will also be challenged. The judge had directed the jury that if the women were cleared of manslaughter or murder they could not be convicted of arson with intent — but that is exactly what happened. The judge's unwillingness to allow evidence that might have indicated there was more than one motive for arson will also be questioned.

A neighbour, spotted the fire first, yet he was not called as a prosecution witness. If he had given evidence, the jury might have heard how, four months earlier, Penbridge had witnessed Hibberd being attacked with a hammer. The attacker threatened to "put the place up". Police statements reveal information about other feuds.

The day after the arson attack, Cole can contain petrol was found in the garden. It had a child's fingerprint — the child's family had connections to drug dealers. At the appeal's initial hearing in October, Michael Mansfield QC argued that the jury should have been fully aware of the connection between the various drug dealers and Hibberd.

Diane Jones's family, however, is adamant that the right people have been convicted.

If the appeal is successful, Hewins will be free. But what can compensate her children? She gave John his father when he was six hours old because she believed she would soon be home. Once convicted, she was refused a place in a prison mother and baby unit. Nathan, the oldest, has an above average IQ but teachers report that he is unsettled and volatile. Nicole is studious but withdrawn. Josh has yet to know what it means to live with his mother. Philip cares for the children, so paid work is difficult and family savings of £5,000 have gone.

What preoccupies Hewins is a determination to see the murder inquiry re-opened. "People say it might soon be over for me," she says. "But it won't be over until we know who killed Diane and her babies. The day when her family can look me in the face and say: 'We know you didn't do it.' That's when justice is done."

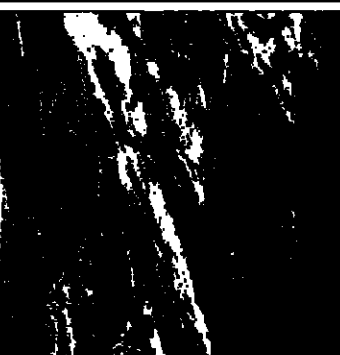
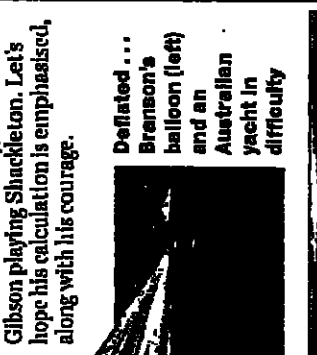
record attempt is sufficient to underline the true nature of this type of adventuring: information was being supplied by the project director, by Branson's own spokeswoman, by the Virgin press office, by his sponsor's media director, in regular press conferences at a central control room, and on a dedicated website. This wasn't a repudiation of our shrinking modern world; it was a perfect demonstration of it.

Branson and his co-pilots, who included the archetypal modern adventurer Steve Fossett, might ultimately have died; their crash-landing in the Pacific was undoubtedly a tragedy. Yet they had died, their lives would have been lost in vain, in a race to be first to a record no one much cares about, being conducted between self-respecting middle-aged men with wealthy corporate backers.

Branson's adventuring is a stunt that fails to resonate — compare the lapped-over round-the-world yachtsman Tony Bullimore's triumph last year. Those who took part in the Sydney to Hobart race have a far greater claim on our respect, but they should never have been allowed to risk their lives in that way. The true adventurer is neither hero nor fool: herosm must be tempered by calculation, courage by an acute sense of danger and by concern for the lives of others.

The role model remains the great polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, whose Antarctic crossing in 1914 is perhaps the single greatest adventure of the century. His ship, the *Endurance*, was crushed by pack ice, and he was forced to leave most of his 28-strong crew in a hastily established camp and row more than 800 miles in a lifeboat to find help. He made it, all survived, a legend was born: next year Hollywood teases the story, with Mel Gibson playing Shackleton. Let's hope his calculation is emphasised, along with his courage.

Deflated... Branson's balloon (left) and an Australian yacht in difficulty



Tragedy was the way the press headlined the devastation wreaked on the fleet in the Sydney to Hobart race. Death, injury and destruction stalked the "fil-fleet" event; the footage of tiny specks adrift on mountainous seas was terrifying; one of those reported to have died was a British Olympic sailor.

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Deflated... Branson's balloon (left) and an Australian yacht in difficulty

Women

Four women, famous and not so famous, look back at an eventful year. Interviews by Nick Morgan

How was it for you?

Elaine Burton, 27, from Brougham, was severely injured in a road accident four years ago. This year she has walked and driven for the first time since the crash. She now campaigns for other traffic victims.

I was driving home from work in my Vauxhall Nova when a lorry lost control. It swerved on to my side of the road, hit me head-on and pushed me into a ditch. When the ambulance arrived, they were afraid I would die from my injuries before they could get me to hospital.

I had nine hours of surgery to get the glass and fragments of broken bone out of my body. My collarbone and knee were broken, and I had a fractured jaw. My spine and kidneys were also damaged, but the worst parts were my leg, legs, knees and hips which were all badly smashed up. My leg was hanging off my body and the surgeon thought at one point it would need to be amputated.

All I can remember from that time is pipes all over my body and a tube down my throat. I was a professional free skier, I was 22 and the doctors were saying I'd never walk again. For three years, I was totally dependent on my mum and dad. I couldn't wash or go to the toilet on my own. All the things you do without thinking were taken away. I hated my disfigured, crippled legs and I hated being in a wheelchair. People

kept saying, "You're lucky to be alive" but I didn't feel lucky. This year, I've got my independence back. I have walked with just a stick for the first time, driven a car, and now I'm looking to find a flat of my own. It's taken a lot of support, determination and physiotherapy, but I'm finally reclaiming my life.

The 19-year-old boy who crashed into me was found guilty of driving without due care and attention. He got six points on his licence and a £230 fine. He has never apologised. The car is a lethal weapon. When a crash happens, people blame somebody or something else — the brakes or the steering wheel or the road conditions. But at the end of the day, you are the one controlling the car and if you are not doing it properly, you shouldn't be driving.

Somebody else will be involved in an accident similar to mine today. It's inevitable. I want proper support for road crash victims and their families, so I'm now using my experience to campaign for a group called RoadPeace. This has helped me emotionally and made me feel useful.

The crash made me realise how short life can be. I've got these injuries and I'm in constant pain, but I'm still the same person inside. I want to go travelling and I'm going back to college to study pain management. Life is rich and I'd like to do as much as possible in the time I've got.

To contact RoadPeace, tel 0161 538 5102

Emma Noble (right) ... Any woman who becomes successful is demonised by the media because they can't possibly be attractive, intelligent, nice and genuine! I'm not a microbe! Up

I have fallen in love, which has certainly made me a lot happier. Love didn't seem so important before, but now I've met James it has become the most significant thing in my life. We were introduced by the media attention. Neither of us could understand why people were being so nasty. It's not an odd thing for a couple in their twenties to meet, go out and fall in love. Everybody asks, "Are you really in love?" and it can get hurtful, especially when people cast aspersions and try to find something that's not there. But we know how we feel and it's our business.

Most of the criticism was a class thing. Even recently there was something in one paper saying I came from a council house and James comes from the upper class, and how dare I? More generally, I think any woman who becomes successful is demonised by the media because they can't possibly be attractive, intelligent, nice and genuine. It's just too scary for a woman to be all these things. So they demonise you to put you in your place.

I was a catwalk model for two years and also a television presenter but when somebody dug out an old picture of me, I was suddenly this topless model. I did one topless shoot for a calendar and that was it, but the media latched on to the label and it was used everywhere. I must admit I'm a bit fed up with that one.

I've now just finished the first leg of the Popcorn tour. I've always wanted to act and this year I've had my chance. If I never do anything else, Popcorn has been such an amazing time for me. I've received my audition and realised that I just want to act. The reviews of the show have been very good and that's all I can ask for. If the papers want to write nasty stuff, they are going to get it from somewhere. But hopefully they will start to be more fair.

For Popcorn tour details, tel 0801 455468.



Emma Noble, 26, started the year providing the sexy smile on Bruce Forsyth's television show *The Price Is Right*. She then it engaged to John Major's son James and ending in Ben Elton's play, *Popcorn*.

12.30pm There will be a half-hour lunch break, but not until the horses have been rubbed down and fed, the saddle put away, the yard swept, and the final scrums of straw picked up by the students. In the meantime, the horses always come first, if they are to get jobs. "I have 150 vacancies to fill at the moment," says Kevin Frost. "Hunters are trying up all the time. Anyone who's any use at all will never be without a job."

But that does not mean any students are likely to make it as jockeys. They go into stable as "hicks" on the most basic wage: £91.20 a week. The college monitors their progress and assesses their on-the-job training for the next two years. After five or 10 years, some will be promoted to "head lad" — on a wage of £2,600 a week plus bonuses when a horse wins a race. But many more will live of the long hours and poor pay, and they will leave.

3pm More cleaning, feeding, sweeping, bedding horses down for the night. The students look exhausted. They leave for their digs at 6pm; most are in bed by 8pm. Some, like Gemma Walchster, 16, keep going because they love it. "It's very hard — you never stop and everything's got to be perfect and there's lots of cleaning. But it's brilliant to be with the horses."

Others keep going because, often against the odds, says James Gale, this is how they will earn their living.

"For many kids, the certificate they get here after 10 weeks is the first they have ever had. A lot of kids who come here can't communicate with each other, but they can with the horses — dumb animals that don't talk back and are dependent on them. Their careers starts here."

4pm The absolutely unconditioned other of the self. M J Dawney, an editor at the University of Nebraska Press, described Dr Dutton's words as "absolutely, unequivocally incomprehensible."

As might be expected, Dr Dutton said this year's competition was held in the spirit of good fun, although he said it had a serious point.

The winners were "well-known, highly-paid experts for years to doubtless laboured for years to write as badly as this. That they must know what they are doing is validated by the fact that, as always, the winning entries were published by reputable university presses and scholarly journals."

Although bad writing comes from "everywhere within the academy," he slipped out the pollsters' of courses in popular culture studies as being a notable contributor to the trend.

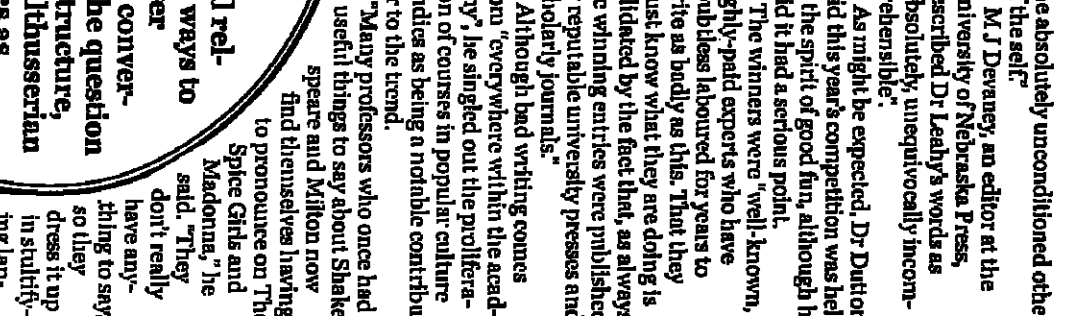
"Many professors who once had useful things to say about Shakespeare and Milton now find themselves having to pronounce on 'The Spice Girls and Madonna', he said. "They don't really have anything to say, so they dress it up in stability."

Dr Dutton, who views himself more in the role of academic nose-tweaker than prize-giver, might perhaps feel like one of the characters mentioned in the sentence of third-placed Steven Z Levine, taken from the introduction to an anthology entitled *Twelve Views of Madonnas' Bar*. "As my story is an argument about fathers and sons, real and imagined, the biography here will fitfully attend to the putative traces in Madonna's work of 'les romans du pere' a Lacanian phallus (Les Non-dupes errent?), a revised Freudian narrative of the infernal dynamic of paternity which annihilates (and hence de-centers) through the deferred introduction of the third term of triangulation the phenomenon of the other of self-identically the mother and child."

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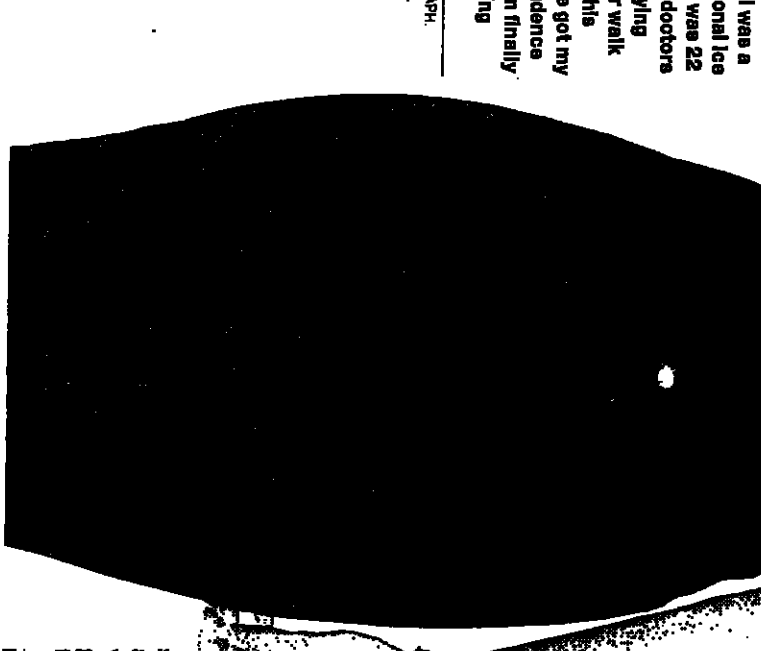
Who's there? A young student at Doncaster's Northern Racing College attempts to master the crocheting center needed to exercise a racehorse's hindquarters.



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Elaine Burton (left) ... I was a professional free skier, I was 22 and the doctors were saying I'd never walk again. This year, I've got my independence back. I'm finally reclaiming my life.



Emma Noble, 26, started the year providing the sexy smile on Bruce Forsyth's television show *The Price Is Right*. She then it engaged to John Major's son James and ending in Ben Elton's play, *Popcorn*.

12.30pm There will be a half-hour lunch break, but not until the horses have been rubbed down and fed, the saddle put away, the yard swept, and the final scrums of straw picked up by the students. In the meantime, the horses always come first, if they are to get jobs. "I have 150 vacancies to fill at the moment," says Kevin Frost. "Hunters are trying up all the time. Anyone who's any use at all will never be without a job."

But that does not mean any students are likely to make it as jockeys. They go into stable as "hicks" on the most basic wage: £91.20 a week. The college monitors their progress and assesses their on-the-job training for the next two years. After five or 10 years, some will be promoted to "head lad" — on a wage of £2,600 a week plus bonuses when a horse wins a race. But many more will live of the long hours and poor pay, and they will leave.

3pm More cleaning, feeding, sweeping, bedding horses down for the night. The students look exhausted. They leave for their digs at 6pm; most are in bed by 8pm. Some, like Gemma Walchster, 16, keep going because they love it. "It's very hard — you never stop and everything's got to be perfect and there's lots of cleaning. But it's brilliant to be with the horses."

Others keep going because, often against the odds, says James Gale, this is how they will earn their living.

"For many kids, the certificate they get here after 10 weeks is the first they have ever had. A lot of kids who come here can't communicate with each other, but they can with the horses — dumb animals that don't talk back and are dependent on them. Their careers starts here."

4pm The absolutely unconditioned other of the self. M J Dawney, an editor at the University of Nebraska Press, described Dr Dutton's words as "absolutely, unequivocally incomprehensible."

As might be expected, Dr Dutton said this year's competition was held in the spirit of good fun, although he said it had a serious point.

The winners were "well-known, highly-paid experts for years to doubtless laboured for years to write as badly as this. That they must know what they are doing is validated by the fact that, as always, the winning entries were published by reputable university presses and scholarly journals."

Although bad writing comes from "everywhere within the academy," he slipped out the pollsters' of courses in popular culture studies as being a notable contributor to the trend.

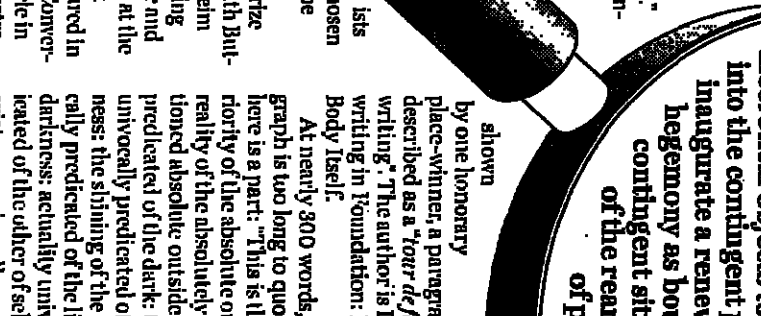
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Education

Letter

Literacy too important to misquote

In his introduction to what he called the "real" issue for the Guardian/Institute of Education Debate, Chris Woodhead, HM Chief Inspector of Schools, asked: "Can a (second) generation who has been responsible for training generations of teachers really believe that 'literacy' is too important to be taught?"

In an earlier quotation of these words in the Sunday Telegraph, he also used the words on the BBC's Start the Week programme. The phrase occurs in an essay I wrote for a collection edited by Brian Cox. I literacy is not thought. Directed at discerning readers, the main argument of the book is seen in the limitations of the Government's literacy drive.

My part in this, a chapter entitled Important Reading Lessons, is to say that a structured reading curriculum is bound to include the directed use of children's literature so as to "demonstrate all aspects of the reading process".

In this context, to set the record straight and I hope, to prevent further use of that truncated phrase as a means of arrangement, please print the words on page 123.

Those who emphasise the functional nature of literacy, who believe that there is a set of "basic" competences to be taught and learned according to a single pattern of instruction, will have difficulty with the underlying assumptions of this chapter: that literacy is too important to be taught or to serve as an instrumental commodity. By creating a meaning different from the one clearly intended, the partial quotation is surely mischievous.

— Margaret Mack, London W11.

society

It is a cold dark morning. Twenty-five students get up in their landlords' houses around Doncaster, and prepare to catch the bus to the Northern Riding College. Most are aged 16-18. Some have come from inner-city Liverpool or Glasgow. For many, this is the first time they have lived away from home.

Studying out time. Each student on the 10-week course, which will equip them with the most basic horsemanship and riding skills, is responsible for one or two of the 28 retired racehorses in the college stables. Students who are "seniors", having completed five weeks of the course, help the "junior" group who have just arrived. They are super-

Ten weeks' intensive training in mucking out, rubbing down and exercising retired racehorses can make all the difference to jobless teenagers.

Karen Gold reports from Doncaster

vised by a team of three training instructors and a training manager.

Sam

The first ride of the day. In the juniors' early days, the seniors take the horses out first to take the edge off their friskiness. Some of the new juniors have never set on anything bigger than a donkey at the beach — and for a few, that is as close as they will get. Part of the induction is to take the new group out and show them seniors riding, explains training manager Kevin Frost.

"If one or two kids see the horses jumping and kicking, that's sometimes enough to send them home." So why would youngsters who have never been on a horse want to work in a racing stable — and why would the college take them? Some

students, mainly girls who form around 60 per cent of recruits, do come with reasonable GCSEs. Many more do not. About one in five has serious literacy and numeracy problems. A number are very slow learners.

The college deliberately recruits in areas of high unemployment where even well-qualified school-leavers find it tough to get a job. It takes youngsters with poor school records, difficult family backgrounds, a history of failure not only in school but also in other attempts at training or work.

It is almost impossible, says director James Gale, to know which children will succeed. Students aged 16-18 come free and get a £10-a-week training allowance. So arguably no harm is done if they leave because they cannot cope with the work, the horses or the homelife. The first two weeks of sickness during the first two weeks — and on average a third of the total annual intake of 150 do.

Sam

The confident riders have already cantered twice round the college's seven-furlong gallop. They walk the horses round, rub them down and

swap to different ones — perhaps the third or fourth changeover today. They move on to the indoor or outdoor riding schools, or the 65 acres of woodland, all of which belongs to the Trust that owns the college, set up in 1994 by the now-defunct South Yorkshire County Council.

The students are split into two ability groups. After three weeks, some novice riders have mastered the crouching canter needed to exercise a racehorse, and are in the better group. Others are struggling. It is perfectly possible to learn to ride well enough to work in a stable in 10 weeks, says instructor Dean Crossman, himself a former jockey who rode in the Grand National. "You just need balance, coordination, physical

"A lot of kids who come here can't communicate with each other but they can with the horses"



Life's rough ride

Ellie Jackson (right) ... Half the time, I didn't know what I was doing or where I was going. My only ambition was to get to the next day. This year, I've learned to work the system" PHOTOGRAPH: JENNY MATTHEWS

Ellie Jackson, 16, is a headstrong, glibborn 16-year-old who thought she knew everything. I argued with my parents about the normal teenage gut things and all I got back was: "You are not doing that." I said: "I'll do what I want. I'm leaving."

I started to sleep on friends' floors but you don't want to impose or outstay your welcome, so then I moved into hostels and travellers' camps. When that didn't work out, I started to sleep rough in bus stations. Half the time, I didn't know what I was doing or where I was going. My only ambition was to get to the next day. I lived on crisps and chocolate bars. I drank anything I could get my hands on and I took drugs, too. I'd walk around in a haze then I'd catch sight of my reflection in a shop window and not recognise myself.

I'd be dead now if it wasn't for Sam and Zack. Sam's a Rottweiler-retriever cross and Zack is a scruffy little terrier thing. When I was sleeping rough, Sam would stay awake at night and watch over me. Last Christmas Eve, I was staying with somebody I thought was a friend, but he turned nasty and grabbed me from behind. I felt his arm lock around my throat and I managed to call out for Sam who jumped through a window to save me. He pulled the bloke off and we ran away together.

I had left home to have control over my life but after the attack, I realised I had no real control. I had no idea where I was going to be the next day, let alone the next year. I decided my life had to change. I started to sell the Big Issue in the summer, then I got into a good hostel where they said I could keep my dogs. I had my own room with my own key and I could come and go as I pleased. I got in touch with Chris and found out about their Smart Move programme where they provide you with a deposit and a month's rent. Now I live in a two-bedroom terraced house.

I can shut the door and make everything go away. I can run a bath and soak in it as long as I want. I've got a place on a floristry course and in the future I want to have my own shop. I'm more in control, happier and more positive about my life now than I've ever been. This year, I've learned you have to take the system on and work to your advantage, rather than let it work you. My life is brilliant now.

Diane Modahl (below) ... "It was a tremendous feeling, the race of my life. When I crossed the line, it was compensation for the years of fighting to prove my innocence" PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS THOMSON



"Diane Modahl, 32, is a professional cyclist. She won the Commonwealth Games in 1994. This year she won the world title in the time trial. She is a member of the Commonwealth Games. She lives in Manchester with her husband and daughter."

There were times when I wanted to give up because it was so difficult. It was only the support of the people around me — my family and my husband, but also complete strangers — that kept me going. When I was out doing a run or shopping, the postman would shout out: "Hang in there, Diane, don't give up" and shoppers would say: "I'm so sorry about what has happened to you but you mustn't let them win."

At the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, I tried to block everything out of my mind. There were so many people and events in my thoughts, but by the time I reached the starting line, there was only me. I was running for myself. I was the one who was going to perform. It was a tremendous feeling, to be standing on the edge of the race of my life.

Everything went according to plan. I believed I could have won but the early pace up front was fast. Then the last 50 metres became very difficult. I remember thinking, God, this is hard. It took a very big effort and I was almost out of breath. I finished the line but I knew I had to get on the winners' podium, so I mustered what I recorded my fastest time for six years: 1 min 55.81 seconds. I was shaking with joy and I was also relieved, finally, that it was all over. I was normal again, whole again. The old Diane had returned.

In an 800 metre race, you know all the elements and you train for it. But nothing could have prepared me for how humiliated I'd feel at being accused of cheating. I felt the whole weight of the ordeal on my shoulders and the loneliness of some days was indescribable. It sounds dramatic now, but it was just like that. There were times when I would open my eyes in the morning and stare at the ceiling for hours and hours and hours. I didn't want to get up because there was no reason to get up.

I've fought my case without any let-up. We sold our house just to keep fighting the case. So the build-up to this race was four years long. When I crossed the line, it was a form of personal compensation for the years of fighting the system to prove my innocence. Our battle is testimony to the fact that the truth is worth fighting for. It's the truth that gives us the strength to keep going.



One smoking barrel

The underlying problem, as Waverley's chart suggests, is that UK distributors suffer from the lowest

Twenty-Fourscore, Michael Winterbottom's *Welcome To Sarajevo* and John Maybury's *Love Is The Devil*. Don't always blame the movies, blame the system. It needs to be changed.

10

Film editor **Simon Hattenstone** on a year when Hollywood showed disturbing signs of maturity

statistics show that if you'd laid out, lined to heel, the people who queued for the video release, the line would have stretched from Hollywood Boulevard to Hollywood, California. *For a second time, 19/11 is its own creature* is one good film, but they signified nothing larger than themselves. My favourite French movie, *The Twentyseven*—he even managed to get a decent performance out of Bob Hishins. Udayan Prasad's *My Days Of Disco*—proved that women can be as good as men. *Titanic* was most of the Oscar season, but the two main acting awards went to Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt instead of the stars of a movie we've already for-

@ Star Wars Episode 1 -- The Phantom Menace. (Enjoy your box office records while you can, Thais!)

The underlying problem, as Variety's chart suggests, is that UK distributors suffer from the lowest

Don't always blame the movies, John Maybury's *Love Is The Devil*. It needs to be charged.

Central Station Worker Seizes Love Letter to the Streets of Brazil

mobile present)
 • **Meatloaves** Food Network's tender portrait of hell on earth
 • **A River's Life** Disney proving they can still produce the pants fit dreamboats
 • **Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace** Enjoy your pre-Billie movie with joy, dear, thank you

interview in this paper, Disney made cartoons, we make animated movies." Which means that Spielberg, who was famously charged with handling adult movies, is now responsible for kid movies that work at us while making jokes about producer angst controlling the means of production. Strange year.

The underlying problem, as Vartley's chart suggests, is that UK distributors suffer from the lowest

market share of new and per cent. Of course, all the major American-used computer distributed some British films but, by and large, their staple diet was Hollywood.

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won't find an audience in their own country, like *Unguarded*'s Jay Roach. The Rumble, *Blame* skedaddle! Twentyfourseven, Michael Winterbottom's *Walesome*, to Sgarbiro and John Maybury's *Love Is The Devil*. Don't always blame the movies, blame the system. It needs to be changed.



Warley, the *flowery* weekly to whom *Lloyd's* gives us a good idea, example. It's called *History Is Made At Night*, produced by Scala and financed by 7 and M Entertainment, both British companies. But it's written and directed by a Polish, Ukranian, Jewish, self-styled *Polish*, and stars American Bill Pullman and Irene Jacob, from *Poems*, the language, is English.

This is really the legacy of British-seemingly needless. The *Journal* is a

If you look at what's actually happened in British cinema in 1986, you get a bit of a shock. There were two major successes — U2's *Sitting Down* (over \$20 million at the box office) and Polygram's brilliantly publicised *Look Back* (\$17 million and Barrye's record \$19 million and still running).

Of the rest, Elizabeth has so far taken around \$60 million. "By 'n' Under took well over \$50 million and Poly Take A Little story was the only other to reach \$5 million. Even the Oscar-nominated Mrs Brown

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